



Peter Alexiovitz the present
Grand Czar of Moscovie

Anno ætat. 27.

A
JOURNAL
OF AN
Embassy from *MUSCOVY*
INTO
CHINA,
Over Land.

The Emperor of China to
whom this Embassy was
sent must have been
Cang-hi who died in 1722
having reigned 60 years.
See Père du Halde

A
JOURNAL
OF THE
EMBASSY

From Their MAJESTIES

John and Peter Alexiévitz,
Emperors of *MUSCOVY, &c.*

Over Land into

CHINA,

Through the

Provinces of *Ustingha, Siberia, Dauri,* and
the Great *Tartary,* to *Peking,* the Capital
City of the *Chinese Empire.*

By *Everard Isbrand;* Their Ambassador in the
Years 1693, 1694, and 1695.

Written by *Adam Brand,* Secretary of the Embassy.

Translated from the Original in *High-Dutch,* Printed at
Hamburg, 1698.

To which is added, Curious Observations
concerning the Products of *Russia.*

By *H. W. Ludolf.*

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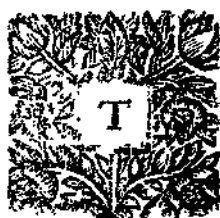


The Habit of the Ostiacken & Kergiasen people.



The Habits of the Tungusen and Daurischen people.

A N
ACCOUNT
O F A N
Embassy from *MUSCOVY*
I N T O
C H I N A
O V E R L A N D.



H E now most Illustrious Princes *Ivan* and *Peter Alexievits*, Great Lords, Emperors, Grand Dukes, and Conservators of all the *Great*, and *Little*, and *White Russia*; of *Muscovy*, of *Volodimir* and *Novogorod*; Emperors of *Casan*; Emperors of *Astrachan*; Emperors of *Siberia*; Lords of *Plesko*; Great
B Dukes

An Embassy from Muscovy

Dukes of *Twersco*, *Leghorscho*, *Permsco*, *Veatsco*, *Belgarsco*, &c. Lords and Great Dukes of *Novogorod* in the Lower Countries; of *Rosansko*, *Rostesko*, *Gerestesko*, *Beteozarsko*, *Oundersco*, *Obdorsko*, *Condinsko*, and all the Northern parts; Lords of the Country of *Versco*, of *Cartalinsko*, and of *Gruzinsco*, and of the Country of *Cabardinsco*; Czars and Dukes of *Circasco*, and *Igorasco*, Lords and Monarchs of several other Dominions and Provinces, East, West, and North; which are their Inheritance from Father to Son: These, I say, my most gracious Lords and Princes, having after mature deliberation resolved to send a most splendid Embassy to the Great *Amologdahan* (or Emperor of *China*); *Everrard Isbrand*, a Native of *Germany*, born in the City of *Gluckstad*, in the Dukedom of *Holstein*, was pitch'd upon by the abovementioned Two Czars, as a fit Subject to discharge so great a Trust; and being accordingly declared their Ambassador to the Great *Amologdahan*, he gratefully accepted of the Favour bestowed upon him by both their *Czarish* Majesties; and after his humble Thanks for the Grace received from their hands in putting so much confidence in him, he ordered his Equipage,

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and all other matters requisite for so great a Journey, to be got in readiness to depart at a minutes warning.

After some time spent in providing several rich Presents, which we were to carry along with us into *China*, and all other necessaries; the Ambassador and the chiefest of his Retinue were in the Year 1692, the 3^d of *March*, introduced into the presence of *Ivan Alexievits*, to Kiss his *Czarish* Majesty's hands; and on the 12th of *March* following, having been admitted into the presence of *Peter Alexievits*, the Youngest of the Two *Czars*, to receive the same Honour from his Hands after his return to *Musco* from *Pereſla*, we set out on our Journey the next following day, being the 13th of *March*.

The whole Attendance of the Ambassador at his departure from *Musco*, consisted only in One and twenty Persons; among whom were Twelve *Germans*, the rest *Muscovites*. We were provided with a good Chest of Physick, a Physician, and a good number of Baggage-Waggons to carry our Provisions, Wines, and all other Necessaries for so great a Journey; and having taken our leave, not without some tears, of our Friends, both *Germans* and *Muscovites*, who conducted us for

some Miles out the Town, we continued our Journey towards *Troitzza*.

But before I go any further in giving an account of this Embassy, I hope it will not be look'd upon in me as a presumption, if by way of digression, I touch upon some general matters concerning *Muscovy*, which being otherwise known by the name of the *Great or Black Russia*, extends its Frontiers to the utmost Borders of *Europe* and *Asia*. It is of a vast extent, its length reaching from the Confines of *Poland* as far as to the great *Asiatick Tartary*, and its breadth from the *Frozen Sea* to the *Caspian Lake* or *Sea*; but many of its Provinces (especially those bordering upon *Asia*) are almost desolate.

Among many others, it has Four great and famous Rivers; the first is the River *Wolga*, arising not far from the Confines of *Poland*, and exonerating it self in the *Caspian Sea*. The second is the River *Oby*, which disimbogues in the *Frozen Sea*; and on that side divides *Asia* from *Europe*. The third the River *Don*, which discharges it self in the *Euxine Sea*. And the fourth the River *Dwina*, which falls near *Archangel* into the *White Sea*.

The City of *Musco*, besides its antiquity, has this to boast of, that ever since
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the Year 1540. at what time Czar *Ivan Basilovits* began his Reign, it has been the constant Residence of the succeeding Czars, to wit, of *Fedor Ivanovits*, *Boris Goudenou*, *Fedor Berisovits*, of the Counterfeit *Demetrius Ivanovits*, of *Basili Ivanovits Zuskfi*, *Michael Federovits*, *Alexoi Michaelovits*, *Ivan Alexiovits*, and of the present Czar *Peter Alexiovits*. It is near Fifteen *Englisb* Miles in compass, being situate on the River *Mosco* (which not far from thence joins its current with the River *Occa*, and falls afterwards into the great River *Volga*) in the Center of *Muscovy*.

The Castle, called *Cremelina*, where the Czars of *Muscovy* keep their ordinary Residence, is Fortified with a very strong Wall, a deep Ditch, and some Demilunes, upon which are mounted good store of large Cannon.

Russia has its own Patriarch, who exercises the same Authority all over the *Muscovian* Empire, as the Pope does in other *Roman Catholick* Countries. But for the conveniency of Commerce, the *Lutherans*, as well as other Protestants, are allow'd the free exercise of their Religion in the City of *Musco*, as well as in some other places of *Muscovy*. The *Lutherans* are

very considerable for their Number in the Capital City, where they have Two Churches built of Stone in the *German* Suburbs. The *Calvinists* have also one very finely built in the same place. The *Roman Catholics* and *Jews*, who have not been tolerated till of late, only exercise their devotion in a private house, and the *Jesuits* are excluded from that benefit also, under pain of Banishment, as it happened to one of that Fraternity not many years ago.

It is very well worth taking notice here, That the present *Czar Peter* is a Prince of an excellent good Humour, and a great Favourer of the *Lutherans*, whom he presented with all the Stone Materials which were made use of in building their new Church, and gave them permission, without the approbation of the Patriarch, to adorn their Church with a Steeple.

But to return to our Journey; We Travelled the 14th of *March* to *Troitza*, a place very agreeable both for its Scituation and the Fertility of the circumjacent Country. This place is chiefly famous for the Convent of *Troitza*; which by reason of its strong Fortifications resembles a great Castle at a distance, being situate about 60 *Versts* or *English* Miles from *Mosco*. The present *Czar Peter* is
so

so extremely taken with the delightfulness of this place, that scarce a Week passes but he diverts himself there.

After we had passed here one Day and two Nights to refresh our Horses, and to take a full view of the place, we Travelled the 16th of *March* as far as *Pereflaw*, a great and magnificent City, according to the *Muscovian* Fashion, the Houses being all of Wood. It is situate on a Lake about 60 *Versts* or Miles from *Troitza*, near it are fine Saltpits, which afford great store of very white Salt, which is from thence transported to other places.

From hence we pursued our Journey to the City of *Rostof*, having a Convent of the same name; it is the Capital of the Province of the same name, which in former Ages was, next to *Novogored Vetiki*, accounted one of the most ancient and most considerable of *Muscovy*, and afterwards was appropriated as an Appenage to the use of the Younger Brothers of the Imperial Family; but the last Prince of that Race being in the Year 1565, by the Tyrant *Ivan Basilovits* bereav'd at once of his Dominions and Life, the same was reincorporated with the Crown of *Muscovy*.

The City of *Rostof* it self is a very large
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and

and stately City, scituate on a Lake; from whence arises the River *Coterius*, which discharges it self into the River *Wolga*; it is dignified with the Title of an Archbishoprick, and the Archbishop keeps his Residence in the Castle, which is Built of Wood; it is 60 *Versts* distant from *Pereislam*.

We did not tarry long here, being afraid to lose the conveniency of making use of our Sleds, by reason of the approaching Spring; for which reason having provided our selves with fresh Horses, we came on the 18th of *March* to *Jaroslav*, the Capital of the Province, scituate near the River *Wolga*, and one of the largest Cities of the whole *Russian* Empire. It is a place of vast Traffick, but especially celebrated for its Trade in *Muscovia*-Leather; of which such prodigious quantities are dressed in this place, that it furnishes not only *Muscovy*, but also a great part of *Europe* with this Commodity.

The Province of *Jaroslav* is of a very large extent, and extremely fertile, especially where it borders upon the River *Wolga*. This Province, like the former, was allotted as an Appenage to the Younger House of *Muscovy*; who enjoyed it for a considerable time, with the Title of Princes, till being also subdued
by

by the aforementioned Tyrant *Ivân Bafilovits*, they were forced to rest contented with a certain yearly Allowance under the Jurisdiction of the *Czars of Muscovy*.

We were forced to stay here the 19th of *March*, partly to take a little Rest, partly to expect the Coming of our Baggage. The 20th we again set forward in our Journey, and arrived at Mid-night in the City of *Wologda*, situate upon the River of the same Name, about 180 Versts or Miles from *Jaroslav*. All the Country betwixt this City and that of *Musco* is extreemly populous, we seldom Travelling a Day but within sight of 14 or 15 Villages or Towns.

This City is the Capital of the Province of the same Name, which is almost impassable at some times of the Year, by reason of the many Forests and Boggs: It formerly was under the Jurisdiction of the Dukes of *Novogorod Veliki*; but since the Peace concluded in the Year 1613, betwixt the *Svedes* and *Muscovites*; by virtue of which, the last were put in possession of the Dukedom of *Novogorod Veliki*, that of *Wologda*, as being its dependency, also devolved unto the *Muscovites*. It is a pretty large City; but what is most remarkable is its Castle, which by the indefatigable

defatigable Care of the *Muscovites* is surrounded with so strong a Fortification of Stone, as to be accounted impregnable.

The River *Wologda*, which has communicated its Name both to the City and Province, runs from West to North, till it joins its Current with the River *Dwina*.

On the 21st Day of *March* (as good fortune would have it) the Weather turn'd again to a hard Frost, to our great Satisfaction; for without it we must have quitted our Sleds, and must have stay'd there till the Frost had been quite broke, which in all probability would have stopp'd our Journey for several Months. We therefore pursued our Journey the 22^d, and on the 23^d came to *Scuskajam*; where being provided with fresh Horses, we, after Dinner was over, went forward upon the River of *Sucagna*. On the 24th of *March* we again changed our Horses in a small Place called *Tettma*; which having nothing in it to stay us in our Journey, we Travelled on with all the Expedition imaginable, in hopes to take up our next nights Quarters in the Village of *Usgorodisbna*; but meeting beyond Expectation there with more fresh Horses; and being willing to improve our Time

to

to the best advantage, we Travelled on the same Night ; and the following Day, being the 26th of *March*, to the Village of *Bobroffskajam*, where indeed we refresh'd our selves a little ; but having again the good fortune to find new Horses ready for us, we set forward the same Night ; and the next following, being the 27th of *March*, and the first *Easter* Holiday, arrived in the Capital City of the Province of *Ustingha* ; where we spent that day and the following night in affording our selves necessary Rest, and such other good Cheer as we thought most convenient to restore our decayed Spirits.

Scarce had we taken a few hours Rest to recover our selves from the past Fatigues, but the Governor of the Place sent one of his Servants ; who after a Compliment from his Master, offered us in his Name every thing that might be in his Power to serve us ; and I must confess, that we were not only very handsomely entertain'd here, but also furnish'd with every thing that was thought convenient for the prosecution of our Journey.

The City of *Ustingha*, as well as its Castle, is situate upon the very Bank of the River *Sucagna*, being a very populous and well-built City ; its chief Traffick consists

consists in all sorts of Furrs and Skins, but especially in white Fox-Skins.

We Travelled all the way from *Schuskajam* to *Ustingha*, upon the River *Sucagna*, not without great Danger, the Ice being almost melted by the Beams of the approaching Sun: This is the same River by which the Merchants of *Wologda* travel to *Archangel*.

Being again provided here with fresh Horses, we came on the 29th of *March* to a small Place called *Lolowitzgoth*, upon the River of *Witzegda*: This River joining its Current with the River *Dwina*, is very well known to the *Russian* Merchants, who from this Place travel in six or seven Nights to *Archangel*,

For the rest, this Place having nothing in it, which was inviting enough to detain us there; and meeting with fresh Horses, we travell'd the same day near 50 Miles through a very large Forest, which is accounted by the Inhabitants to contain 800 Miles in length.

It is in sundry places inhabited by a certain People called *Sirenes*, who tho' quite different from the *Muscovites* in their Language and Manners, yet profess the *Greek* Religion, and are therefore in great Esteem among the *Russians*. Where-ever

we

we came we had our share in the publick Rejoicings, which are made, during the *Easter-time*, all over *Muscovy*, in remembrance of the Resurrection of Christ; it being an ancient Custom in *Russia* to present one another not only on *Easter-day*, but for 14 days after, with painted Eggs, of which you see great Quantities ready boil'd, to be sold on all the Corners of the Streets, no body, of what Quality, Degree, Age or Sex, daring to refuse either the Eggs or the Kifs, which is always given as you present the Eggs. If they meet in the Streets, they salute one another in these Words, *Christo vos chrest*; that is, Christ is risen: whereto the other having answered, *Wo is tenoros Chrest*; that is, he is certainly risen, they Kifs one another. This Custom is so general, that if during this time you are invited at a *Russian's* House to partake of their Merriments, and you should not offer to kifs the Ladies there present, (where it is to be observed that you must take care not to touch them with your hands) you would be look'd upon as an ill-bred Clown; whereas if you acquit your self handsomely in this Point, you are sure to receive a Cup of *Aquavite* in return for your Civility.

But

But to return to our Journey, which for some days after proved very troublesome to us, being obliged to cut down many Trees, to facilitate our Passage through the Forest: Besides which, the many Rivers (amongst which the *Siasella*, *Chasim*, and *Nattim Peris*, were the chiefest) we were to pass, rendered our Passage not only difficult, but very dangerous, many of our Men and Sleds falling into the last of these Rivers by the breaking of the Ice; but, by the help of the rest, having happily escaped the danger, we were obliged to take new Measures for the future.

For which reason, when we came to any of these Rivulets, which coming from the adjacent Hills, run through the Valleys, we fastned many pieces of Timber together, over which (in the nature of a Bridge of Boats) we drew our Sleds by the help of strong Ropes, whilst we were forced to walk it on Foot, and to let our Horses swim through the Rivers; We had at last the good fortune to surmount all these Obstacles, without any great Damage or Loss; but being extreamly fatigued by so troublesome a Passage, we rested our selves for some time in a Village.

Having

Having a little recovered our selves, we continued our Journey, and arrived safely on the 6th of *April* at *Kaigorod*, upon the River *Kama*. This Place has its own Governor, and a good Garison, who keep a watchful Eye over the Inhabitants, who are *Sirenes*; besides, that the *Cosacks* sometimes pay them a Visit when they least expect it.

Of this the Governor of the Place, *Ivan Mikietivits Lopugin*, related us an Instance which had hapned two Years before, in the Year 1690, being the first of his Government. It seems thirty of these *Cosacks* having had intelligence that the Place was at that time not sufficiently provided for its Defence, had taken a Resolution to attack it on the Water-side: For which purpose, having provided themselves with all necessary Arms, and, among the rest, with one great Piece of Cannon, they took the opportunity of the Night, when every body enjoying the benefit of Rest, they surprized the Town, murdered and plundered all that came in their way, and were within an Inch of having seized the Governor; who happily escaping their hands, caused the Alarm to be given to the Inhabitants; who being thereby made sensible of the Danger, run to their Arms, and

and soon obliged these Vagabonds to betake themselves to flight. They pursued them for some time upon the River; but the darkness of the Night covering their Retreat, they escaped with the greatest part of the Booty.

Our Sleds being now become quite useless to us, we were obliged to tarry here till such time that the Ice were sunk in the River: In the mean while we diverted our selves with Hunting, and such other Pastimes as the Place and our present Circumstances would afford. For we had not been here many days, when we were frightened with a new Report, That a considerable Number of these Robbers had again associated together in order to come and surprize our Baggage, which put us under no small Consternation, till the Governor having order'd us a good Guard, and disposed the Garison so as to be ready upon all occasions, we were soon freed from these Apprehensions, and passed the rest of our time in our usual divertisements.

The River being by this time cleared of the Ice, we took our Leave of the Governor, and embark'd in a Vessel built for that purpose, on the 23^d of *April*, upon the River *Kama*; in our Passage we saw several

several Monasteries on both sides of the River, but very few Villages.

The large River *Kama* comes from the North-East, and with a swift Current runs as far as *Casan*, where it exonerates it self on the left side of it into the River *Wolga*. It approaches in Bigness to the River *Wefer* in *Germany*. It is increased by several lesser Rivers, among which is the River *Wiesetzca*, which falls into it about 25 Miles from *Solokamsko*.

We left the River *Kama* on the 26th of *April*, towards Evening, directing our Course to the Left, to the small River *Ufolsko*, from whence we had 7 Miles to travel to *Solokamsko*: But going against the Stream, we came not till the 27th to *Solokamsko*, being a Place situate in a very pleasant Plain upon the River *Ufolsko*, built there on purpose by the *Muscovites* for the conveniency of such, as have occasion to travel into those far distant Places. It is inhabited both by *Russians* and *Tartars*, who trade in all sorts of Cattle, but especially in Horses; which being very excellent hereabouts, are preferred before others all over *Muscovy*.

There being constantly fourscore Cop-
pers employed here in making of Salt,
this makes this Place, as well as the adja-

cent Villages, (where they follow the same Employment) very considerable, it being very fine, and from hence transported to *Casan*.

On the 29th of *April* we had the misfortune to have one of the Ambassador's Attendance to fall over-board, and to be drowned: He was a *Muscovite* by Birth, his Name being *Simon Callaction*, for the rest a good honest fellow; but being overcome by the strength of *Aquavita*, came by this Accident, by tumbling over-board, and was, notwithstanding all the care taken by his Comrades to save his life, carried away by the swiftness of the Current: His Body was found floating on the first of *May*, when it was interr'd near the Shoar.

On the second of *May* the Ambassador, with most of his Retinue, were invited by a certain *Muscovian* Gentleman, one of the *Czar's* Factors, whose Name was *Alexi Astaffi Philatoff*, to his Country-house, about 20 Miles distant from *Solok*, where we were entertained with a very handsome Dinner, and pass'd the Day very merrily. Near this place his *Czarist* Majesty employs above 20000 Workmen in making of Salt. The Gentleman whom we mention'd before, had, at his own cost,

two large Vessels built in this place, of 400 Tuns each, for the Transportation of Salt; and hearing of our coming that way, had caused them to stay for some time, to make us eye-witnesses of the manner of convoying these Ships, and what Order and Discipline there was observed among them. Each of these Vessels had 500 Men on board, who were to labour without intermission at the Oars, relieving each other at certain and convenient times, under the Command of several Officers; so that by the continual supply of fresh Men, these Vessels could perform a great Voyage in a little time. Both these Vessels being loaden with nothing but Salt, were bound to *Casan*, where they sold it to a great Advantage: For whereas the *Pode* (being 40 Pound weight) did not stand the Owner in above half a *Copeck* upon the Spot, it was sold at *Casan* for twelve or thirteen *Copecks*.

The night, betwixt the 3^d and 4th of *May*, it began to Snow and Freeze so hard again, as if it had been in the Winter; which continuing till the 6th, put us to no small trouble, being obliged to stay here seventeen Days, which however we passed pleasantly enough. The worst of all was, that by the melting of the Snow,

and the overflowing of the Rivers, we were disappointed in our design of going by Land to *Wergaturia*, situate upon the Frontiers of *Siberia*; which being but a small Place, and furnished with very low and indifferent Buildings, notwithstanding this has its own *Waymode* or Governor. But, as I said before, being disappointed in our design, we were forced to make use of five Boats, and eight of them Mann'd with five Watermen, who, by the help of their Oars, brought us on the 14th of *May* as far as *Uskogorod*; but the Wind veering about as we were within sight of the Place, drove us back down the River *Ufolka*, into the River *Kama*. They count it 50 *German Miles* from *Solokamsko* to *Wergaturia*. On the 16th of *May* we entred the small River *Susora*. From *Solokamsko* to this River it is counted 30, and from hence to *Ulko* 40 Miles. Here we were again in no small Danger; for the River having overflowen all the circumjacent Country, just as we pass'd upon it, to such an extraordinary a degree, that our Boats often pass'd over the tops of the Trees; if there had happened a sudden Fall of the Waters, we must have infallibly perish'd; but we happily escaped the Danger, and arrived safely on the 19th of *May*

May in a small City called *Niesna Susowa*, where we refresh'd our selves. On the 20th we came to another small Town, the Inhabitants of both are employed in making of Salt. From hence upwards the River, the pleasant Woods and Hills on both sides afford a very delightful Prospect.

In these Forests you meet with the *Agarius* whose spongy substance is from hence carried to *Archangel*, and from thence into other Parts of *Europe*. We saw several Villages on both sides of the River; and on the 25th of *May* took up our Lodgings in one of them, situate upon the very Banks of it. After we had a little recovered our selves from our past fatigues, we had the curiosity to enquire into the Manners and Customs of the People inhabiting those Parts.

They are called *Wogultzoi*, Subjects to the *Czar* of *Muscovy*, and are all *Pagans*, much addicted to Superstition. Their Stature is low and mean, not unlike the *Tartars*; their Habitations having also a great Resemblance to the *Tartarian* Huts, but they are never without a Chimney in them; They use a Language different both from the *Muscovites* and *Tartars*.

They being asked concerning their Faith, gave us for answer, That they believed a Creator, who resided in Heaven, for whom they had a great Veneration; They pay Adoration to the Heavens, Sun, Moon, and Water; they sacrifice Horses, Cows and Calves; They expose their Skins only upon a Pole or high Tree, to which they pay their Devotion; the Meat they eat afterwards. They were altogether ignorant of any thing relating to Baptism; they only told us, that it was a most ancient Custom among them, to name the Child after the most ancient Person of the Village. They are very careful to inter their Dead in their best Accoutrements, being of opinion that at the Resurrection (which they believe, without the least sense, whither they are to go afterwards) every one is to appear in the same posture and condition as he was buried. The *Muscovites* observe many Fasts throughout the Year, but these were ignorant of what Fasting meant; yet we observed that they did not eat any Fowl, but only their Eggs, which they look'd upon as a great Dainty.

Their Marriages are contracted and performed in a very odd manner: If a young Man, who intends to marry a
young

young Woman, comes to ask her Father's consent, the Answer is, If thou be'st in a condition to pay for her, thou may'st have her ; so they make the bargain as well as they can, the Bridegroom being obliged to purchase the Bride from her Father, sometimes for 40, sometimes for 50 or more Rubles, which amounts to 20 or 30 Pounds sterling. The Money being paid, the Bride is surrendred to the Bridegroom without any further Ceremony ; but if the Money be not ready, there is no Bride to be had ; they are yet so civil to allow the Bridegroom a certain time to raise the Money, and in the mean while he has the liberty to court his Mistress ; who, when the bargain is fulfill'd, is carried veiled to his Bed-chamber. After the Bridegroom has gathered the first fruits of his nuptial Bed, their Friends and Relations are invited the next day to a Feast, where they make themselves heartily merry with Eating, Drinking, and Dancing till the next morning ; when, after they have made some Presents to the young Couple, they part, to their own homes.

What was credibly related to us concerning their Child-bearing Women, is no less surprizing than the former : For when

the time of their Delivery approaches, they retire into some Forest or another, where they stay for two Months after, till having recovered their full strength, they return to their Husbands. During their stay in the Woods, their Husbands dare not approach them under pain of Death ; these ignorant Wretches being persuaded, that there are certain invifible Persons inhabiting these Forests, who, as they are very careful to preserve these Women againſt any misfortune that might befall them, ſo they would be ſure to puniſh the Husband with Death, if he ſhould be ſo preſumptuous as to come near his Wife, whiſt ſhe is under their protection in the Forest.

We had the opportunity to be preſent at the Burial of one of their Dogs : He was of a very large Size, and had been, as it ſeems, a good Hunting-Dog in his life-time ; for which reaſon, theſe poor Wretches made ſad moans and lamentations for the loſs of ſo ſerviceable a Creature : After having uttered many things in his praiſe, they put him into a Grave dug for that purpoſe, with a piece of Wood under his Head, for fear he ſhould lie uneaſy ; and as a Monument of their gratitude for his paſt Services, they erected a little Hutt
over

over his Grave. We were credibly informed, that it is a very ancient Custom among these People, to bury all their Dogs, and to reward their past Services in the same manner.

Their manner of living is very miserable, Husbandry being a thing unknown among them: Hunting is their only livelihood; Sables and the Reen-Deer being the only Commodities this Country affords.

We pursued our Journey on the 26th of May, leaving the small River called *Silva Reka* on our right Hand, and towards Noon the small River *Kine*, on the same side, and towards Evening the River *Serebrena Reka*, to the left of us. On the 28th of May, we passed by *Ulko Mesovasa* and *Sullem Reka* to the left of us. On the 29th of the same Month we left *Ulko Serebrena Reka* on the same side, and on the Right the River *Doria Reka*.

On the 1st of June we came to *Ulkegorod*, a Place fortified after the *Russian* manner, with wooden Fortifications, but very small, containing not above twenty Families.

We spent above three Weeks upon the River *Susowa*, our Vessel being sometimes drawn, sometimes rowed, but always against the Current; which, by reason of the many windings of the River, is very swift,

swift, and so violent, that we were sometimes droven back for a quarter of a Mile before we could recover our selves; besides, that we met with several Cataracts, which took up a whole day before we could pass them, and that not without great danger. To add to our affliction, we were continually pestered with such an infinite number of Gnats, that, whatever pre caution we took, it was impossible for us to preserve us against their fury.

All the way betwixt *Solamsko* and *Ulko* we saw nothing but Desarts and Rocks on both sides of us, which are most dreadful to behold at a distance; and because we could not go further up the River, we were forc'd to tarry nine days at *Ulko*, before we could be furnish'd with Land-Carriages; which time we spent in providing our selves with Forage and all other necessaries; and on the 10th of *June* set forward again in our Journey to *Nema*, leaving our Baggage to follow us the next day.

The 12th of *June* we travell'd through a Town call'd *Ajat*, situate upon a River of the same name; and the 13th to another Town called *Romasheva*, upon the River *Resh*. The Grounds hereabouts are very fertile and well peopled, abounding in all
sorts

sorts of Corn; and whereas, whilst we were upon the River *Susowa*, we scarce got sight of a Village in 60 Miles; we now could not travel a Verst, or English Mile, without meeting with a good Village, where we were furnish'd with every thing we stood in need of.

Whilst we were in this Town, the Inhabitants received Intelligence by Messengers and Letters sent for that purpose, that the *Calmuck Tartars*, to the Number of 6000, had made an Inroad into the next Province; where they had made such miserable havock, with Murthering, Burning, Plundering, and Driving away both Men and Cattle, that they had put all the Country round about under a great Consternation, as dreading the same treatment.

On the 14th of *June* we reach'd *Newagorod*, a small, but very pleasant Town; it has but an indifferent Fortification, not much better than *Ulko*; but is remarkable for its Situation upon the River *Neva*, the Boundary of *Siberia* on this side. This Journey was very pleasant and diverting to us after our former Fatigues and Dangers, the Country being everywhere fill'd with Inhabitants, and the Fields well cultivated, the wild Roses, and other sweet Herbs,

Herbs, affording a very agreeable scent, and a most delightful prospect. The pleasantness of the Place invited us to tarry here a whole day, which we spent in walking about the Fields, and gathering of Roses, Lillies of the Valley, and such like. On the 16th of *June* our Baggage arrived at *Nema-Gorod*; and the next following day we again received intelligence, that the above-mentioned *Calmuck Tartars* were advanced within four days Journey of this Place; and that after they had made themselves Masters of a certain Frontier Town, which they had besieged, they intended to march this way: The Inhabitants hereabouts being sufficiently sensible of the Cruelties exercised by these Vagabonds in their Excursions, were in most dreadful fear of these Barbarians; and we forewarned of the approaching danger, hastned the equipment of our Vessel; which being got ready in five days after, we stay'd not one moment longer: but after we had thus spent seven days betwixt hope and fear at *Nema*, we set out from thence on the 21st of *June*, steering our course upon the River for *Tobolsko*, being provided with a Convoy of 12 *Cossacks* of the Garison of *Nema*, for our better security.

The

The River *Resb* falls 5 Miles above *Nema* into another River, where, with its stream, it loses its Name, and is from thenceforward called *Niatza*. The first Town we met with upon this River on the 22^d, is called *Rudna*; and not far from thence another goodly Town called *Nigniske*, situate in a very fertile and populous Country, fit both for Pasturage and Tillage, the Fields and Plains being surrounded and covered with Rose-trees, which afford a most delightful prospect.

On the 23^d of June we pass'd by three very handsome Towns, to wit, *Jebitzke*, *Kerginskoy*, and *Suborara*. On the 24th we came in sight of the Town called *Jalan*, famous for nothing else, but that near it, this River joins its Current with the River *Kira*. Towards the Evening we saw another Town at some distance named *Krasna Hobod*; and on the 25th, about Midnight, came to the City of *Tumen*.

It is a large and strong Place, being fortified with a very good Wall; the Inhabitants are for the most part *Tartars*, who have settled here for the conveniency of Trade: They are much more civilized than any of the other *Tartars*, by reason of their frequent Conversation with Strangers. Most of
these

these Towns furnish'd us with fresh Water-men; who being well rewarded for their pains, so warmly ply'd their Oars, that we advanced apace.

I cannot pass by here in silence the extraordinary Liberality and Hospitality of the Inhabitants of these Parts; for we scarce could pass by a Town, tho' never so indifferent, but the Inhabitants would come forth and bring us Provisions, and sometimes Furs, without the least reward or recompence, to our no small astonishment, who were not used to meet often with such kind treatment among such Barbarous Nations, they being generally of the *Tartarian* Race.

The next Town we met with, was called *Makowa*, situate on the Confluence of the Rivers *Pisbma Reka*, and the *Tura*, which runs by the City of *Wergaturia*.

On the 28th of *June* we came as far as *Sutska*, situate on the Confluence of the Rivers *Tura* and *Tobol*. The next day we passed by *Piesda Reka*, and *Turba Reka*; and on the 30th of *June* leaving the River *Taffda* to the Left of us, we arrived safely on the 1st day of *July* in the City of *Tobolsko*.

This City, which is the Capital of *Siberia*, is situate near the River *Tobol*, about
3000 Miles

3000 Miles from the City of *Musco*. It is situate upon a Hill of a large Extent, the Suburbs being most inhabited by *Tartars*. There is here a very fair Monastery, surrounded with a very strong brick Wall. Near this Place the River *Irtish* joins its Current with the River *Tobol*; *Tobolsko* is not only the Capital, but also the chief Place of Trade of all *Siberia*. Their Traffick consists most in Furs, such as Sables, Ermins, Fox Skins, and such-like.

The Kingdom of *Siberia* is watered by a great many large Rivers, among which the River *Oby* is the chiefest. This River has many Islands, which by reason of the thick Woods are unpassable. In some places the *Oby* is a League, in other places half a League broad; it abounds in Fish, such as Sturgeon, White-fish or *Belluja's*, and others.

The principal Cities of *Siberia* are, *Werchaturia*, *Japahzeen*, *Tumen*, *Tobolsko*, *Narim*, *Tomskoy*, *Kosnezi*, *Krasnoj*, *Ker*, *Jenokisko*, *Ilim*, *Mongassy*, most of which are very large and populous Cities. The Kingdom of *Siberia* is surrounded by several *Tartarian* Nations, such as the *Cal-muck Tartars*, the *Tartars* of *Mongul*, and others, as the *Tungoskoy*, *Bratzkoy*, *Ost-acky*,

ack, *Barrabinsy*, governed by their own Princes, and each of them distinguish'd by their different Languages. The *Sa-moyedes* are under the Jurisdiction of the *Czars of Muscovy*.

The Natives of *Siberia* are much addicted to Sorcery and Idolatry. The *Russians* inhabit most of the Cities; *Czar John Basilovits* was the first who brought this Kingdom under his Jurisdiction, after he had conquered the two *Tartarian* Kingdoms of *Casan* and *Astrachan*; since which time they pay their yearly Tribute of all sorts of Furrs which are found in *Siberia*, to wit, Sables, Martins, red and white Fox Skins, which amount to Two hundred thousand Rubles *per Annum*.

The Sables are catch'd by the Inhabitants by Traps, not unlike our Rat and Mice-Traps; but they have also another way of Hunting and Killing the Sables, of which we shall have occasion to speak anon. They go a Sable-hunting with Sleds drawn by Dogs, who carry the Sleds with more ease over the Snow than Horses. The *Czar of Muscovy* has the Twentieth of all the Sables that are catch'd throughout the Year; we being obliged to stay for some time at *Tobolsko*, as well to repose our selves after so tedious and troublesome

some

some a Journey, as to make all necessary Preparations for the future ; we passed our time very pleasantly in the Company of the *Waywode* or Governor *Stepan Ivanovits Sotticove*, and his two Sons *Fedor Stepanovits*, and *Ivan Stepanovits*, who shew'd us all the Civilities in the World, and there pass'd few days but that they either were with us, or we with them, and entertain'd one another with every thing the Place would afford.

The Ambassador having dispatch'd in the mean while an Express to their *Czarish* Majesties, and every thing being provided for the prosecution of our Journey, we put as many Provisions, Forage, and other Necessaries on board our two Vessels, as would serve us for three Months: For, from hence to *Jenokisko*, whither we were bound, is 6000 Miles, for the most part through a desolate Country, where there is but little Forage and Provision to be met with.

Accordingly after we had all taken our leave from the Governor and his Sons, we went on board our Vessels on the 22^d of *July*, under convoy of 20 *Strelitzes* or Musqueteers, who were to conduct us to *Surgutt*, and directed our Course upon the River *Irtish*, towards *Jenokisko*. The

24th we sailed with a fair Gale by a Town called *Dernjan*; but having occasion for fresh Water-men, we went on shoar till we could be supplied with some. Near this place the River *Derjansko* falls into the *Irtisb* on the Right hand, and the Inhabitants hereabouts being *Ostiaky*, a lazy and idle People, we changed our Water-men sometimes twice and thrice a day: Of their manner of Living we shall speak more hereafter.

On the 28th of *July*, early in the Morning, we came to a Town called *Samurskojam*, where we stay'd till the 29th, when we got on board again by break of day. We had scarce sailed two Miles upon the River *Irtisb*, when we pass'd into another lesser River; which being a Branch of the River *Oby*, we were towed up against the Current, and at last, on the first day of *August*, entred that famous River *Oby*. This River rising among the *Calmuck Tartars* from the South-West, disembogues in the *Tartarian* Sea; it is very dangerous for Ships, by reason of its depth, and the many Rocks, which render its Waters very boisterous. The 6th of *August* we reach'd the City of *Surgutt*, a Place which has nothing remarkable, but a small Garison; the Governor of
which

which having given us 16 of them to convoy us to *Narim*, we sent back those we had taken along with us from *Tobolsko*. Hereabouts you see nothing but a barren desolate Country, inhabited by a few miserable Wretches, who have scarce wherewithal to cover their Nakedness, all their Employment being Hunting of Sables, Ermins and Foxes.

They catch here the Sables in a quite different manner from what we have related before; for they shoot them with Arrows, or they make fire under the Trees where they know the Sables do shelter themselves; who being suffocated by the Smoak, fall from the Trees, and are soon catch'd. The Ermins they catch in Traps, and the Foxes they hunt with Dogs. We stay'd here till the 9th of *August*, when being furnish'd with fresh and sturdy young Water-men, who encouraged by the hopes of a good Reward, stood briskly to their Oars, We passed the 13th the River *Wache* to the Left of us, on the 19th the River *Tim*, and on the 24th arrived safely at *Narim*, a City situate on the Left-side of us upon the River *Oby*.

It is worth observation, that in the Winter-time there is no Travelling from *Tobolsko* to *Narim* with Horses, but this

Journey must be performed in Sleds drawn by Dogs ; they put three or four of them before the Sled, and whip them along as we do our Horses. When they go abroad a Hunting, they put their Provisions and Hunting-tackle, such as Bows, Arrows, Lances, and such-like. in one of these Sleds drawn by Dogs, and thus travel to their rendezvouz, which is sometimes 14 or 15 days Journey from their Habitations, and many times don't return in two months.

The *Ostiaky* living in these Parts, make use of these Sleds in the same manner when they go abroad a Fishing ; so that you may see them bring their Fish to Market in many Sleds all drawn (in the Winter-time) by Dogs.

We were provided here with new Barge-men, and 24 *Cossacks*, who were to convoy us to *Jenokisko*, and on the 25th of *August* re-imbark'd upon the River *Oby*, which we left on the 29th of the same month, and entred the River *Ketto*, where being obliged to Row against the Current, we were above a month before we could reach the Town of *Mokuskoj*, from whence we continued our Journey by Land to *Jenokisko*. We saw abundance of Cedar-trees on both sides of the
River

River *Ketto*, and on the first of *September* refresh'd our selves at a small Town called *Kettskoy*. But meeting with very slender Accommodation, we got on board again the same night, and did not stir out of the Vessel till the 28th following, there being nothing but Desarts on both sides of the River. On the 16th of *September* we were all on a sudden put under a great Consternation; for it having frozen very hard the night before, we were in no small apprehension of the danger of perishing for want of Necessaries in these Desarts, which must have been infallibly our fate, if the Frost had continued longer; but, as good fortune would have it, we were soon freed from this Danger by a very agreeable Thaw; and being, besides this, encouraged by a fresh and favourable Gale, we made use of all our Skill; and on the 28th of the same month came to a Monastery, situate upon the Banks of the River, where we repos'd our selves for some days, after a long fatigue of a whole month; and in remembrance of the past danger, kept a Thanksgiving-day there on the 2^d of *October*, to offer our Thanks to God Almighty for our Deliverance, and to implore his Mercy for the future.

After Prayers, &c. we set Sail again the same Evening. when we passed a small Village, which contained not above six Families. We saw hereabouts abundance of Currant-trees, both black and red; we had met with some of them before near this River, but no where else in so great a quantity, which made us judge, the Grounds hereabouts were more kind and fruitful than in other places. On the 3^d of *October* died one of the Ambassador's Retinue after 13 days illness: His Name was *John George Weltzel*, a Native of *Germany*, of the City of *Golding* in *Silesia*, by his Profession a Painter. On the 7th of the same month, we got safely to the so long wish'd for small City of *Mokuskey*, where, among other things, we gratified our selves with a cool draught of very good Beer. By Orders from the Ambassador we interr'd the dead Body of our Friend upon a Hill, upon the very Banks of the River *Jetto*, where we put a Cross; this being the only Monument we were capable of dedicating to the Memory of our deceased Fellow-traveller.

After we had a little recovered our selves from the past Fatigues, the Ambassador, and most of his Retinue, pursued their Journey by Land on the 10th of *October*,

October, leaving nine of his Attendance behind to take care of the Baggage, which was to follow on, as soon as the Roads should be rendred convenient for the passage of sleds. We travell'd for two days and nights through a most dreadful Forest, till on the 12th of the same month we came in sight of *Jenokisko*, where we made our publick Entrance the same night, with so much Magnificence, that the Inhabitants were surprized thereat. This City lies upon the River *Jenska*, famous not only for the conveniency of Shipping, but also for the most prodigious Plenty of Fish it affords. Betwixt this Place and *Tobolsko* the *Ostiacky* have their Habitations. They are low of Stature, and very deformed; besides which, both Men and Women constantly are subject to a certain Weakness in their Eyes, the cause of which they attribute to the want of Bread; which being a scarce Commodity among them, they seldom are masters of it, unless they are by chance furnish'd with it by Travellers; which happening very rarely in so remote a Country, we supplied them with what we were able to spare: Their common Food is River-fish; and instead of Bread, they make use of the same Fish dried. Whilst we were as yet upon the

River *Oby*, we were every day suppli'd with great Quantities of the best River-fish by those *Ostiacky*, who refused our Money, but earnestly entreated us to give them in lieu of it some Salt, Bread, and *Chinese Sharr* or Tobacco, which we did accordingly.

Not far from the Banks of the River *Ketto*, I espied one day some wretched Hutts, which believing to belong to the *Ostiacky*; and being willing to satisfy my curiosity in taking a view of their Habitations, I got on shore; and having easily got admission by the help of a small Present of Bread and Salt to the Owners, I entred them, which made a wretched appearance, being made only of the Barks of Trees.

One among them, somewhat bigger than the rest, and distinguish'd by certain Figures, invited my Curiosity to take a full View of it. Being entred, I found three Women lying upon the Ground, who at the sight of me arose from their places, and by their noddings and threatnings sufficiently testified their displeasure of seeing a Stranger to interrupt them in their retirement; but being sensible that I had prepared my way by the Presents given to the Owners, I took, notwithstanding

withstanding all their wry Faces, the liberty to search every corner of the Hutt. These three Women, as I was informed afterwards, were the Wives of so many *Knezes* or Dukes of the *Ostiacky*, but their Equipage appear'd little suitable to their Quality, for I could not meet with any thing worth taking notice of all over the Hall but their *Sheitan*, or (as they themselves call'd it) their God: This Idol was of Wood, of about a Yard in length, appearing most dreadful at first sight; the Head of it being covered with a strong Tin or Iron-Plate, which look'd as black as a Chimney-stock, by reason of the many Incenses which they offer to this Idol. For the rest, it was dress'd up in a ragged Coat of woollen Cloth, patch'd together with 1000 pieces of all sorts of Colours; I don't remember that ever I saw the most wretched Beggar make so miserable an appearance as this their God, unto whom this superstitious People attribute a Power of preserving them from ill. All the while we were upon the River betwixt *Sergutt* and *Mokuskoj*, we had no other Barge-men but these *Ostiacky*; who, though they were young and lusty Fellows, and were well entertained on Board of our Vessels, yet were so lazy, that they would rather have
fate

sate at home and starved, than to come and work for a good livelihood. It is by reason of this their lazy Temper, that they seldom take the pains to go abroad a Hunting. And for the same reason it is, that they change continually their Habitations, sometimes 16 or 20 times in a year, because, say they, we are willing to put our selves beyond the reach of such Travellers who come this way, and oftentimes, sorely against our wills, force us to the Oars.

The Ambassador being willing to divert us with the simplicity of these ignorant Wretches, he caused his *Valet du Chambre* to bring forth a wooden Drummer; which being very artificially made with Clock-work within, beat the Drum, and express'd some other Motions of the Head, Eyes and Hands so naturally, that the *Ostiacky* being at first surprized at it, started back; but having a little recovered themselves, and taken a full view of all his Postures, they knock'd their Heads against the Ground, prostrating themselves before the wooden Drummer in the same manner as they do before their *Sheitan*, or God; at which we could not forbear laughing.

To continue the sport, a wooden Bear was brought forth by the Ambassador's Order, who, as he was made after the same fashion, so he beat the Drum with his fore-paws, and all the Motions of the Head and Eyes as artificially as the Drummer; wherefore they also paid him the same Veneration. But they soon gave us to understand, that they were much more taken with the Drummer than with the Bear; for they with a very profound Reverence begg'd the Ambassador to bestow upon them the Drummer, offering to give the weight of him in Money. But the Ambassador, being unwilling to encourage their Idolatry, and for some other Reasons, denied their Request.

Their Garments are made of the Skins of Beasts, with the Furr on the out-side; in the Summer they cloath themselves with the Skins of Fishes. We also made this Observation among them, That some have their *Sheitan* or Idol made of Wood, others of Lead, and others again of Brass, according to their several Abilities; and the poorer sort dress them up in Rags, the richer in Sables.

They have a very odd way of paying their Devotion to this Idol: For, instead of saying their Prayers, they whistle a certain

certain Tune, with strange Postures, clapping their Hands together, beating their Heads to the ground, and making many Gesticulations with their Feet as they lie prostrate before them, with many more such-like ridiculous Ceremonies, too many to insert here.

Whenever they Feast, they set a certain share of the best Dish aside for the *Sheitan*; which if they should neglect, they are of opinion, that the Victuals they eat, would turn to Worms in their Bowels; and if they should take it away again from before the Idol, they are persuaded, they should be struck Lame in all their Limbs. We were credibly informed, that at certain times they met in their Hutts, where they first began with Whistling, and afterwards continued to make most horrid Outcries and Lamentations, till a certain Spectre appear'd to them, which foretold them what was to happen to them the next year: as for instance, whether they were to be plagued with Famine; whether they should be fortunate or unfortunate in their Hunting and Fishing; whether they should continue in Health or not; whether they should marry young or old Wives; whether they should die a Natural death, or whether they should be slain

or

or torn to pieces by the Bears and other wild Creatures; and more of such-like Predictions: which done, they pay their Adoration to the Spectre; and that being vanish'd, they look upon its Predictions as infallible, and accordingly attend their Fate with an unshaken resolution. They also pay a kind of Veneration to the Bear-Skin, and swear by it. When they have shot a Bear, they cut off his Head; and paying their Veneration to it, they whistle and ask, *Who is it that kill'd thee? the Russians did it, Who cut off thy Head? the Russian Axe did it. Who is it that has handled thee thus? the Russians have done it*; laying thus all the fault upon the *Russians*.

These blind and ignorant Wretches have nevertheless this good Quality belonging to them, that they don't Curse nor Swear; for which they shew such an abhorrence, that they take care to make very lively Impressions against this Vice in their young Babes; being persuaded, That he who Swears falsely or foolishly, shall certainly be unfortunate the whole Year, and be in danger of being torn to pieces by the Bears, or other wild Beasts.

For the rest, the *Ostiacks* are great Admirers of *Chinese Sharr* or Tobacco, which they take in a manner peculiar to themselves: For when they intend to Smoak, they fill their Mouth with Water; and so sucking the Tobacco-smoak in greedily, swallow it down with the Water. For which reason it is, that generally at the taking of the first Pipe in the Morning, they fall down drunk and insensible, but soon recover themselves. They seldom take Tobacco sitting, but always standing. For want of Tobacco, they smoak the shavings of their Tobacco-pipes, which are made of Wood, after a very coarse fashion.

We stay'd in the City of *Jenokisko*, or *Jennessay*, ten Weeks, where we were extreamly civilly treated by the Inhabitants, but most especially by the Governor. On the 13th of *December* we sent our heavy Baggage before upon Sleds, and the Ambassador with his Retinue followed on the 21st of the same month, taking our way towards *Irkutskoy*. We were conducted out of the Town to the next Village, as well by the Governor himself as the chiefest Inhabitants; and after having bid one another farewell, we continued our Journey for some time upon the River *Jenska*, which
we

we afterwards left to our Right, and pass'd all along the River *Tungusko Reka*, or *Tongust*, the Boundary of *Tungoeses* on this side, of whom we shall have occasion to speak more hereafter. We pass'd by several Villages on both sides of the River, and on the 30th of *December* took up our Quarters in the Village called *Bubutsha*, where we refresh'd our selves for four and twenty hours. Beyond this Village begins the great *Wolock* or Desert, where you travel 8 or 10 days, without meeting any Village, or House fit for Entertainment.

In the Year 1693, on New-years-day, we left the above-mentioned Village, and entred the above-mentioned *Wolock* or Desert, which proved very troublesome to us by reason of the Coldness of the Weather, which was so excessive, that our Victuals and Drink (which was only fair Water) froze, and turn'd to Ice, before we could bring it from hand to mouth. And when we had occasion to travel upon the River, the Mountains of Ice, which often obstructed our passage, were such Obstacles as were not easy to be surmounted, being obliged to cut our way through them with Axes. This prodigious Quantity of Ice, and the uneven Ways which are all over the Desert, deter most
Travel.

Travellers from taking this Road in the Winter-time. We had once more the good fortune to overcome all these difficulties, and on the 8th of *January* came safely to the Village called *Kasma*. To refresh our selves and our Horses after so troublesome a Journey, we were obliged to stay here 13 days, which time we employed in sending for fresh Horses, and in taking a view of the Habitations of the *Tongueses*, of whom I will give you a short Relation.

They were formerly a War-like Nation, governed by its own Princes, inhabiting a very large Countrey. But they have of late years been conquered by the Victorious Arms of the *Czars* of *Muscovy*, unto whom they pay a yearly Tribute.

As to their Persons, they are very lusty and well proportion'd, their Cloaths being nothing but the Skins of Beasts, with the Furrs on the outside of divers Colours, neither Sex being to be distinguish'd by the least difference in their Habits. They take a particular pride to have their Cheeks stich'd (whilst they are young) with black Thread through and through, some cross-ways, some in imitation of a Square, or any other figure they like best. This unaccountable piece of Pride, as painful as
it

it is, (as causing great Swellings in their Faces) they look upon it as Badges of Honour, transmitted to them from their Ancestors ; the marks of which they retain with a great deal of satisfaction till their dying-day.

Their Cabans or Hutts are generally made of the Skins of the Reens, or some other wild Beasts ; those of the better sort of the Barks of Trees : It is a most surprizing thing to conceive how these poor Wretches are able to defend themselves against the Violence of the Cold, in such miserable Cottages ; but Custom has inured them to endure these Hardships without the least inconveniency to themselves. For no sooner are their Children come into the World, but they lay them in the Summer in cold Water, in the Winter in the Snow ; by which means they are so accustomed to Cold, that they are the hardiest People in the World.

They are distinguish'd into three sorts : The first are called *Kunny Tungoesi*, who make use of Horses. The second *Alenny*, who live altogether upon Hunting. The third *Sobaltzy*, who live more like Dogs than Men.

Their Idols are made only of Wood, every one has his domestick or tutelar God.

There is one who is look'd upon as the Patron of Hunting, who sends them good fortune when they go a Hunting after the wild Beast or wild Fowl. Another makes them successful in catching of Sables ; another in Fishing : But sometimes they use their Gods but scurvily ; for, if they have offered up their Prayers to them, and are deceived in their expectation, the God is thrown out of doors, till they happen to have better luck ; then they are admitted again, and have their full and best share of what they have got abroad.

If five or six of these *Tonguese* Families happen to live near one another (which is very rarely seen) they maintain betwixt them a *Shaman*, which signifies as much as a Sorcerer or Priest. At their Meetings this Priest appears in a Habit distinguish'd by many Figures of Beasts, such as Lions, Bears, Serpents, Adders, and such-like ; which being all of Iron, weigh generally above Two hundred pounds weight. Then he beats a Drum in a very doleful manner, at which the standers-by break out into most dreadful Lamentations and Outcries, pretending that they see certain Spectres in the figures of Ravens and other strange Birds ; and
the

the Priest, as if stricken with an Epileptic-fit, falls down upon the ground, and is reverenc'd by these ignorant People as a Saint.

How mean and miserable soever their Condition is, they all of them have several Wives, whom they look upon as their greatest Treasure: The richer sort have often 10 or 12, whom they buy from their Fathers, sometimes for 10, sometimes for 15 Reen-deers a-piece.

Their manner of taking an Oath is most abominable: For, he that is to confirm the truth of a thing by his solemn Oath, is obliged to suck the Blood of a Dog wounded for this purpose, with a Knife in his left fore-leg, till he expires. They don't bury their dead Corps, but hang them on Trees, where they putrify, and at last waste away. They are very cautious of Swearing or Cursing; the worst Curse they give one another, is to wish them to be forced to live among the *Russians*, or to Till the Ground, and such-like.

On the 21st of *January* we left the Village of *Kasma*, and continued our Journey in Sleds upon the River *Tunguska*, or *Tongusi*, till after some time leaving it to the right of us, we passed from thence to

the small River *Ilim*; both these Rivers are well peopled on both sides of the Shoar. On the 25th we arrived in the small City of *Ilimskoy*, situate upon the River *Ilim*, in the very Center of some high Mountains which surround it. On the 27th we continued our Journey from thence through a great Forest, which by reason of the badness of the Ways, we did not lay behind us till after a troublesome Journey of three days and nights, when we came to the River *Angara*, where we pass'd by many others of less note, the Isle of *Balagansko* and *Kamenko*, which are well peopled. Hereabouts live the *Brattskoy*, who being of the Race of the *Mongul Tartars*, are Tributaries to the *Czars of Muscovy*. Betwixt *Jenokitsko* or *Jenessay*, and *Irkutskoy*, great Quantities of Martins and Foxes are caught in the beginning of the Winter; but about *Jenokisko* are the best black Foxes, which are sold at 20, 25, and 30 Rubles a-piece.

On the 11th of *February* we arrived safely in the City of *Irkutskoy*, situate upon the River *Angara*, where, for several Reasons we stay'd a whole month, in which time we receiv'd all manner of civility from the Governor *Knez Ivan Petrovits Gargaran*. As he us'd often to
invite

invite us to Dinner, I met several times there with a certain person, who being accounted a Saint among the *Mongul Tartars*, used to mutter out his Prayers, which were very long, holding in his Hands a long String with red Coral Beads, which he told without intermission. On the 15th of *February* the Ambassador dispatch'd a Messenger to the City of *Naun*, on the Frontiers of *China*, to notify our Arrival in those Parts. On the 9th of *March* we left the City of *Irkutskoy*, and being conducted out of the Town by the Governor and the chief Inhabitants to the next Village, we spent the whole night there in making good Cheer; and having bid one another Adieu, the next morning we came on the 10th of *March* in sight of the Lake of *Baikala*, where the River *Angara* has its rise.

This River was from the City of *Irkutskoy*, to its Entrance into the Lake, quite free from Ice, and had been so all the Winter long. They count it 30 Miles from the City to the Lake, the utmost Boundary of the Kingdom of *Siberia*.

The Lake of *Biakala* is about four days Journey in length, but at this Season we passed its breadth with Sleds in six hours. It is more dangerous in the Summer by

reason of the changeableness of the Winds : The Inhabitants have this superstitious opinion concerning it, That whoever calls it *Oser* or a Lake, will scarce pass it without danger ; but those who give it the Title of *Mor* or Sea, need not fear any thing. We dined on the 11th of *March* upon the said Lake, and towards Evening discovered six Cabans or Hutts belonging to the above-mentioned *Brattskoy*. Near these Hutts we saw a dead Sheep and Goat fix'd upon a Tree with the Heads upwards, which, they told us, were two Sacrifices made to the Heavens. I made the best inquiry I could concerning their Religion, but could get no satisfactory Account, only that they used to sacrifice a Sheep and a Goat once a year to the Creator of the Heavens, and that they adore the Sun. They are very industrious in Breeding of Cattle, but especially of Camels for the conveniency of the Caravans travelling to *China*.

We came the same Evening to a Monastery on the other side of the Lake, situate upon the Frontiers of the Province of *Dauri*, a very large and fertile Country. The next Morning, being the 12th, we passed through the Towns of *Kabania* and *Bolsko Sainko*, both small Places, but well fortified

fortified by the Inhabitants, they serving them as Bulwarks against the *Tartars* of *Mongul*, On the 19th of the same Month we came in sight of *Udinskoy*, and the Ambassador was met three Miles out of Town by an Officer at the Head of 50 *Cossacks*, who conducted him to the City, where he was received under the discharge of the Cannon. This Place, which is considered here as the Key of the Province of *Dauri*, has not been inhabited above six Years. The Castle, which is very well fortified after the *Russian* manner, lies upon a Hill, from whence they have at several times bravely repulsed the *Mongul Tartars* that assaulted them. We lay still here three Weeks, which time we spent (as we had done at *Irkutskoy*) in buying of Cattle for the conveniency of our Carriage. We bought Camels at 10 or 15 Rubles apiece, and Horses for 4, 5, or 6 Rubles. We provided our selves also with as many Oxen as might furnish us with Beef in our Journey to *China*, and back again.

Being now to travel through the great Desert belonging to the *Mongul Tartars*, we pack'd our Baggage upon Camels and Horses, the first carrying about 600 weight, the last about 250: We entred the Desert

on the 6th of *April*, our Caravan consisting of 250 Men, some Hundreds of Camels and Horses, and 400 Waggon, which in the night-time being drawn up in a Circle, enclosed the rest, and at some distance from thence we placed our Centries, to advertise us of the approach of our Enemies, if any should appear. But they not daring to attack us, took another course to vex us to the utmost of their power; for during the space of three Weeks, that we travell'd through this Desert, where we often were in want of Water for Men and Beast, the *Monguls* and *Tongueses* burnt that small quantity of dry Winter-grass that was left, before us; so that being unprovided with Forage, we saw our Beasts, but especially our Horses, drop down dead for want of Fother; and what was the worst of all, the rest were become so lean, that they were almost rendred quite unserviceable. We lost above a hundred Horses in this Journey, to the great satisfaction of the *Tongueses*; who looking upon Horse-flesh as a great Dainty, devoured them so soon as we had left them. The *Tongueses*, who are dispersed through these Desarts, are of the same Religion with the *Erattskoy*, whom we have mentioned before. They bury with the dead

Corps

Corps of their Friends all their best Moveables ; and if they become decrepit before they die, they lead them upon a high Mountain, where they burn them, and impale their best Horse near it.

The 24th and 25th of *April* we passed to the left of us by a Lake called *Jerawena*, abounding with all sorts of very good Fish ; it is 20 Miles long, and 15 broad. Here it was we met with the Messenger who had been sent before by the Ambassador to *Musko*. On the 26th we came to a small Place called *Jerawena*, where we provided our selves with as many new Horses as we could get for Money.

It is to be observed, that in the Desarts round about *Jerawena*, there are the best black Sables ; the *Cossacks* of *Jerawena*, who are the Sable-hunters hereabouts, go abroad a Hunting sometimes for three or four Months together ; they make use of Scates, by the help of which they pass over the Snow with great Agility. We bought some of these Sables of them, from 8 and 10, to 20, 30, and 50 Rubles a pair.

On the 28th of *April* we again entred the Defart, but met here and there with some Woods. The 29th we pass'd on Horseback the River *Uda*, which arises from a
great

great Lake, and is here not above three fathoms broad. The want of Fother continuing among our Cattle, occasioned by the revengefulness of the *Monguls*, we lost abundance more of our Horses, and the rest were so fatigued that we were in danger of wanting Provisions, before we could pass the Desarts. For which reason the Ambassador commanded 10 Men to go in quest of Horses, which they effected with good success; for on the 3^d of *May* they met us with a good number of fresh Horses near the Lake, called *Schack's Ofer*, which is four Miles long, and two broad. We had the good fortune to find here some Fother for our Horses and Camels, which obliged us to stay here till the 5th of the same Month, when leaving the Lake to our Left, we continued our Journey to another Lake, which we pass'd by on the 6th in the Morning, and the same day in the Afternoon reach'd the end of this troublesome Desart, after a most tedious and fatiguing Journey of near four Weeks.

The first Place we came to, is called *Plotbus*, near the small River *Skiet*, containing not above six Families, who are settled there but very lately.

On the 15th we continued our Journey from *Plotbus* by Water upon Floats of
Wood

Wood to *Nertzinskoy*. About a Mile from *Plotus* the River *Schiet* falls into the River *Ingeda*, as the River *Okkon* joins its Current with the same at a small distance from thence, and is afterwards called *Schiteka*. The Rivers *Nertza* and *Argun* fall afterwards into the same River, out of the last of which arises the famous River of *Tamour*, which disembogues into the Ocean. On the 20th of *May* we came to the City of *Nertzinskoy*, the last Place of Note (unless it be *Argun*, a small Town eight days Journey from thence) under the Jurisdiction of the *Czar* of *Muscovy*. *Nertzinskoy* is situate upon the River *Nertza*, where about 6000 *Tungoeses*, all Subjects to the *Czar* of *Muscovy*, have their Habitations; who have fortified themselves here against their Enemies. Hereabouts are abundance of *Lucerns* and *Sables*, which are in great Esteem among the *Chineses*. We were fain to stay two Months in this place, to give time to our Horses and Camels to recover themselves in the adjacent Pastures. The *Cossacks* hereabouts are very Rich, by reason of their Traffick with *China*, where they are exempted from paying any Custom.

We then began to make all the necessary Preparations for our Journey through
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the Defart ; we provided our selves with Oxen, which were to be killed by the way as occasion should require ; 50 *Cossacks* were allotted us as a Convoy to *China*, and to see us safe back again to *Nertzinskoy*, and the Ambassador appointed such Gentlemen as belonged to his Retinue to manage all the Affairs belonging to the whole Caravan, each in his respective Station ; who having the Command both over the *Russian* Gentlemen and Merchants, were treated by them with a great deal of Respect, especially the *Germans*, who led the Van, in regard they had had the Honour before their departure from *Musco* to be admitted to Kiss their *Czarish* Majesty's hands. On the 18th of *July*, when we were just ready to leave *Nertzinskoy*, two *Cossacks* brought Letters to the Ambassador from *Offdakim Andre Kurdikoff*, who, as we said before, had been dispatch'd from *Irkutzkoy* to the City of *Naun*, on the Frontiers of *China*. The Contents of these Letters were, That he being not permitted to go to *Peking*, the Residence of the Emperor of *China*, had been obliged to deliver his Letters at *Naun* ; which being dispatch'd from thence to *Peking*, a certain Person of Quality, attended by a great many Servants,

was

was come to *Naun* to expect the Ambassador's Arrival. That the said *Chinese* Lord having sent for him, had asked him, among other things, upon what account the Ambassador was sent to the *Kams Hi Ammaogdo Chan*? To which he had answered, That he did not know the least thing of it; but if he did, it would not become him to discover it. He had further asked him, What Countreyman the Ambassador was, and in what Station at Court? To which he had reply'd, That he was not able to give him an exact account of the matter, he having been only taken into his Service at *Irtkutskoy*, from whence he had soon after been dispatch'd to *Naun*; That all what he could tell was, That the Ambassador was a *German* by Birth, and in great Favour at Court, desiring him to supersede to ask him any further Questions, which he was not in a capacity to answer.

We did not set out from *Nertzinskoy* till in the Afternoon, to wit, on the 18th of *July*, and reached the same Night with part of our Caravan the River *Schileka*, where we ferried over. But our whole Caravan consisting of 400 Men, we stay'd here three days, this being the place of our rendezvouz. From hence the Ambassador

ambassador dispatch'd a Messenger, whose Name was *Andre Avonass Kruhoff*, to their *Cæsariſh* Majesty's in *Musco*.

There were abundance of Gentlemen and Merchants belonging to our Caravan, who traded with Furs to *China*. Each of them had 30 Pounds weight of Bisket allotted him for his share, during our whole Journey through the *Tartarian* Desert, which took up two Months. This slender Allowance did not proceed from any Covetousness of the Ambassador, but because we were obliged to manage our Carriages to the best advantage. Besides which, our ordinary Food was good Beef, and sometimes Venison.

From the above-mentioned River *Schileka*, we travelled three days together through a great Forest full of Bogs, and three days after through a Desert; and further, two days again through a Forest, before we reach'd the River *Samur*, which falls into the River *Schileka*. In the night-time we lodged in our Tents, of which we had 50 in Number. There is otherwise no Travelling Lareebouts with Waggon, but only with Camels and Horses. For several days after we met with very bad Ways, the Ground being very boggy till you come to the River of *Argun*. At
last

last we came on the 3^d of *October* to the City of *Argun*, where we stay'd till the 7th, it being so long before our whole Caravan could pass the River. This River is at present the Boundary betwixt the Emperors of *Muscovy* and *China*, this City being the utmost Frontier place of the Province of *Dauri*, as far as it is under the Jurisdiction of the *Muscovites*. Some years ago the Territories of the *Czars* of *Muscovy* extended to the famous River of *Yamour*, but these were by vertue of a Treaty made in the Year 1689, (when *Fedor Alexievits* was sent Ambassador to *China*) betwixt both the Emperors, granted to the *Chineses*, as was also the strong Fortress of *Albazin*, situate upon the same River.

The *Mongul Tartars* being always abroad in Parties, we were obliged to be continually upon our Guard, for fear of our Baggage and Horses: These *Monguls* are generally great Cowards, ten well disciplin'd Men being able to beat a hundred of them.

The Ambassador dispatch'd from hence some *Cossacks* to the before-mentioned City of *Naun*, on the Frontiers of *China*, to desire the *Chinese* Governor to send us some Carriages to a certain place. The
best

best of our diversion was Hunting in the Desert, where there was such vast Numbers of Deer, that one night, when we were drawing up our Waggon to make our usual Fence, some Deer leapt among us, of which we catch'd one with our hands. The River *Denbu*, which exonerates it self into the River *Argun*, is four days Journey from the City of *Argun*.

The 15th of *August* we came to a large Navigable River called *Gaum*, whose Banks being overflown by the late Rains, we could not pass with our Camels; whereas at other times it is Fordable in many places. Being unwilling to lose time, we contrived a way to transport our selves and the Caravan, by killing a good many of our Oxen, the Hides of which we joined together; and with what Wood we could gather, we made a kind of Floating-Boats for the conveniency of Transportation. But the Hides were carried two Miles lower by the Current, and were not brought on the other side without great danger. Our Floating-Bridges succeeded better, which did us good service: The Horses being unloaded, were forced to swim cross the River; We spent two days in passing the River, and lost but one Horse. On the 16th of *August*
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some *Tongueses*, who having surprized some *Monguls* in their Habitations, and after they had massacred 50 of them, had carried the young ones into Slavery, offered us five of these Slaves, to wit, three Boys and two Girls, whom they would willingly have exchanged for Horses. We could have bought them at the rate of 4 or 5 Rubles apiece; but the Ambassador considering that we were entered the *Chinese* Territories, would not allow us to buy any of them. On the 23^d of *August* we reach'd the small River *Keilar*, which falls into the River *Arguin*; we cross'd the same River the next day on Horse-back. The 26th of *August* we cross'd again the River *Saduma*, a small, but navigable River, which likewise discharges it self into the River *Argun*. The 27th we pass'd by the River *Gnar*, which joins its Current with the River *Saduma*; and on the 28th we met a Caravan, consisting of 150 *Russian* Merchants, and 300 Camels, but no Horses. They had left *Nart zinsko* the last Winter, in their Way to *China*, and were now returning home. They brought us the good News, that the *Chinese* expected the Arrival of our Ambassador with a great deal of impatience. We tarried here two days, which time we
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spent together as merrily as the circumstances of the Place would allow of; they presented us with some Tea, which was very welcome to us, who were grown quite weary of drinking cold Water.

After we had taken our leave of one another, we travelled for two days through a Countrey, very agreeable for its pleasant Hills and fertile Valleys, where the River *Jall* has its rise, and afterwards becomes a large navigable River. On the 31st of *August* our Messenger *Kundikoff* (whom the Ambassador had dispatch'd from *Jokutskoy* to *Naun*) returned and brought advice, that a certain Person of Note, in the Quality of an *Adogeda* (or Conductor of Ambassadors) was arrived from *Peking* to *Naun*, where he expected the Arrival of the Ambassador. On the 1st of *September* there came a Messenger from the said *Adogeda* to the Ambassador, who having complimented him in his Master's Name, brought us the first *Chin-se* Carriages, and a Present of 10 Sheep, some Rice and Oatmeal, he was sent back immediately.

On the 2^d of *September* we reach'd the first Out-Guards (consisting of 12 persons) of the *Chineses*, on the 3^d we came to the second, and on the 4th to the third. These Scouts lay concealed upon the Hills, and

as soon as they perceive any Caravans or other Strangers coming that way, they give notice to one another by certain Signals, which reach to the Cities of *China*. For several days together we travelled through very pleasant Forests, where, among other Trees, we found abundance of Oaks, which were very low, but spread their Branches in a very large Compass. We saw here also Filbird-trees in the Plains, differing in shape from those we have in *Europe*, as being not above half or three quarters of a Yard high, and their Stalks very thin; they bear a prodigious quantity of Nuts of a very large size.

The next Place we came to, was inhabited by the *Targuts Chinay*, who are Pagans, subject to the *Chineses*; they are good Husband-men, the Countrey abounding in Oats, Barley, Oatmeal and Tobacco; and we being in want of some Oatmeal and Salt, we furnished our selves with as much as we stood in need of. These People live on the utmost Confines of the Province of *Dauri*; for that part of the Province which is under the *Muscovite* Jurisdiction, extends only to the River *Argun*, from whence to the Village of *Suttegarsbe*, all the rest belongs to the *Chineses*, by vertue of the above-mention'd Treaty. On the 10th of

September several other Messengers arrived from the *Adogeda*, who were sent back immediately. After we had travelled three days longer through a Desert, we arrived at last to the Village of *Suttiga*, belonging to the *Chineses*; where meeting with the *Adogeda*, whose Attendance consisted of 50 persons, he invited us the same Evening into his Tent, where he presented us with some *Thee* boil'd in Milk, with Flower and Butter, in wooden Dishes, and some Preserves and Sweet-meats. The 13th of *September* the said *Adogeda* invited the Ambassador, with all his Retinue, to Dinner, where he met the Ambassador at some distance from his Tent, and after a very obliging Salute conducted him with his left hand thither. We stay'd about half an hour before Dinner was brought in, which time they bestow'd in entertaining one another with several Questions: The *Adogeda* ask'd the Ambassador, How long he had been travelling from *Musco* to this place? Unto which he reply'd, A year and a half. He ask'd him further his Name; which he told him was, *Ilesar Ilesarevits Isbrand*. Whilst they passed their time in such-like discourses, Dinner was served up, upon a small Table, without a Table-cloth, the Ambassador and the *Adogeda* having each his own Dish,

Dish, as had all the rest : Our Dishes were filled with Mutton and Pork ; the second Course was Pottage, wherein was a mixture of fine Flower, made in the nature of a Pudding, but very long and thin, not unlike a Gut : We were put to a *nonplus* how to manage this Dish ; but two Secretaries belonging to the *Adogeda*, who were much better acquainted with it than we, shew'd us the way. For, instead of Knives, they had two Bonesticks ; betwixt these they took up these Puddings, which they thus conveyed to their mouths, which they held over the Dishes ; and after they had bit off a good mouthful, they let the rest drop in the Dish again. These Sticks used by the *Chineses*, in lieu of our Knives and Forks, are streight, of about a quarter of a Yard long, made either of Ebony-Wood, Bones or Ivory, tipp'd on the end where they touch the Victuals, with Gold or Silver, which they use with a great deal of dexterity, without touching the Victuals with their Fingers.

After Dinner two Silver Cups fill'd with Brandy were brought to the *Adogeda*, one of which he presented to the Ambassador, the other he drunk himself. All the rest had also Purcelain Cups with Brandy presented them, which they were to take off

to the bottom. The Feast concluded with a Service of Sweetmeats in wooden Dishes.

The 14th of *September* the Ambassador invited the *Adgeda* to his Quarters, where we observed, that our way of Entertaining seem'd to them as strange as theirs had done to us the day before.

After Dinner the Ambassador desir'd the *Adgeda* to provide us the necessary Carriages and Passes, which he performed to our satisfaction. The Ambassador had for his daily allowance two Sheep; for each of his Secretaries, one Sheep; for each of his Gentlemen, one Sheep; for the rest of his Attendance, some two, some three, some four to a Sheep; for the *Cossacks*, Labourers and Grooms, ten Men to a Sheep; for the ordinary Fellows, a Measure of Oatmeal each a day; and for the better sort, a Paper with Tea, which was a very plentiful Allowance, but that we wanted Bread, which is a Commodity as little known among the *Chinēses*, as some other *Asiaticks*.

The Inhabitants of the City of *Naun*, 5 Miles distant from the Village of *Suttigatt*, are Idolaters, adoring the Devil in the night-time, with most horrid Out-cries. Their Houses are very commodious and neat, their Livelihood being most Planting of Tobacco. On the 16th of *September* the
Ambas-

Ambassador sent to the *Adogeda* the following Presents :

10 Sables.

50 Ermine.

5 Yards of black Cloth.

A Looking-glass with a gilt Frame.

Another Looking-glass with a black Frame.

Several Glass-bottles with *Aquavita*.

Some pieces of gilt Leather.

And several rare pieces made at *Augsburgh*, that moved by the help of Clock-work.

It was a great while before the *Adogeda* could be prevailed upon to accept these Presents, by reason they are under an obligation not to receive any Presents ; for which reason it is, that, when any Presents are offered them, which they cannot in honour refuse ; they have them valued, and are to return double the value of it to those who presented them. On the 21st the *Adogeda* sent to the Ambassador six Tables covered with Sweetmeats, and two Earthen Bottles of *Chinese* Brandy. On the 23^d he invited the Ambassador to Dinner, and he was invited by us again on the 24th.

Having thus diverted our selves for 14 days in the Village of *Suttigett*, in the mean while that our Carriages were got

ready, we continued our Journey on *Michaelmas*-day. Each person of the first Rank had a Waggon drawn by Oxen, and a Horse allowed him. The rest of the Attendance were provided with Waggon, three, four, five and six in a Waggon ; we came the same night to a Village, where we took up our Quarters, and the following night to another, where we also stay'd all night, after we had pass'd the day before through a Desert.

It ought to be remembred here, to the great Honour of the *Chin-fes*, that they treat Strangers with a great deal of civility : For, tho' we passed through uninhabitable Desarts, yet did we never want Conveniencies for Lodging ; a sufficient number of Cabans being brought from distant places, which were always ready provided against our Arrival. They were stor'd with all necessary Utenfils for the Kitchen, and each Hutt had a Servant, whose Business was to take care of the Fuel, Water, and other Necessaries. Every other day we had fresh Horses ready at hand, and the *Chin-fes* kept all night a constant Guard round our Waggon fence, to prevent any surprize ; they were provided with Bells, to give the Alarm to one another in case of necessity.

The *Adogeda* keeping constant Company with our Ambassador during the whole Journey, they often fell in discourse together concerning the Nature and Policy of several Nations, which commonly ended in the Praise of *China*, of which the *Adogeda*, but especially of the *Chinese* Wall, (round which he told us, a Man could not travel in three years time) related us such Wonders, that we could not but be surprized at it. Nothing was so troublesome to us in this Desert, as the want of fresh Water, which we were forced to dig for very deep, and was commonly so muddy, that it went against our stomachs. If we met with any that was tolerably good, we took care to carry some of it along with us in Leathern Flasks. Our best comfort was, that the Ambassador had every Morning a small Kettle-full of boil'd Tea allowed him for his Breakfast, of which some of us had our share, which was served us in Cabans or Hutts set up for that purpose, at certain distances. We often used to divert our selves with Hunting, these Deserts being full of all sorts of very good Game. I and another, a particular Friend of mine, rid out one Morning a Hunting, to shoot some wild Sheep, but paid dearly for it; for having lost our Caravan, we rid two days
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and nights up and down the Defart, not knowing where we were, till at last we came in sight of some Hutts belonging to the *Mongul Tartars*, but durst not approach for fear of being assassinated by them. But they having espied us at a distance, came up with us, inviting us to their Cabans, where, beyond all expectation, they treated us very civilly: It is possible they had heard of our Ambassadors coming that way, and judged that we belonged to his Retinue. Our greatest Trouble was how to find out means to send to the Ambassador, who had sent several of his Men in quest of us: We made them at last understand by many signs who we were, and what our Errand was with the Ambassador; upon which they sent a Messenger to give him notice where we were: It is easy to be imagined that we were very eager of going along with the Messenger; but our Horses being quite tired, we were forced to tarry there till our Caravan came by that way.

On the 15th of *October* we arrived near the River *Casumur*, which exonerates it self in the River *Nann*, where we halted 24 hours, and refresh'd our selves with fair Water, which was as welcome to us as if it had been the best Wine, because we had
been

been in great want of it before. Having provided our selves with as much as our Leathern Vessels would hold, we continued our Journey, and on the 19th passed by the Ruins of several Cities, where we observed the Remnants of very ancient stone Monuments, representing several Figures, quite different from those we meet with in *Europe*. They say that these Places were destroyed by *Alexander the Great*. We saw also hereabouts several large stone Pillars of an excessive bigness, which being hung about with small Bells, made a great noise when they were put in motion by the Wind. Beyond these we saw again the Ruins of several Places, and several Figures cut in Stone, representing Men, Women, and several sorts of Beasts. Deer, Hares, and wild Sheep we meet in vast numbers, of the last we saw sometimes 2 or 300 together ; but they are very difficult to be catch'd, they being nimbler than a Deer. The Hares are hereabouts very small, not much bigger than our Leverets. Pheasants are also here in great quantities, but not easily to be reach'd by the Gun, for they don't settle upon the Trees, but run all along upon the Ground, swifter than other Birds can fly in the Air. We took a great deal of delight in the dexterity of the *Chineses*, who with
their

their Arrows would shoot any Bird flying. The *Adogeda* had very fine Falcons, who seldom let escape any Pheasant or Hare they met with.

The nearer we approached the *Chinese* Wall, the more populous we found the Country: For three days together, before we came in sight of it, we travelled all over Rocks and Precipices, through which there was cut a safe Road for the convenience of Travellers; and in the midst of these Rocks there is a goodly City, called by the *Russians*, *Schoma Gorod*, or *Kora Katon*. All hereabouts are abundance of Tigers, Leopards, and Panthers, for which reason the Ambassador, upon the persuasion of the *Adogeda*, ordered that no body should ride at any distance from the Caravan, unless there were at least three or more in Company. In the City of *Karakaton* some Alterations were made in our Provisions by the *Chineses*; for, instead of Sheep we had Hogs allowed us, and a Measure of Rice for each person. The Hogs in *China* have such hanging Bellies, that they touch the Ground.

From hence we had a long days Journey to the *Chinese* Wall, betwixt *Rich*, and the City of *Naun*; the Country is inhabited by the *Mongul Tartars*, who acknowledge the
Dala-

Dalacлама for their Head. They keep their Idols in their Houses, and present their Offerings to them, which is commonly Victuals and Drink. When they bury their Dead, they put a white Cock upon the Coffin. A *Mongul* Nun, who was continually muttering her Prayers with her Beads in her hands, being asked by the Ambassador, who it was she adored, she gave for answer, *I adore the same God, who being deprived of Heaven by your God, will certainly return thither, and put your God out of his place; when you will see strange Alterations upon Earth.*

On the 27th of *October*, towards Evening, we came in sight of the famous *Chinese* Wall, which is four Fathoms high, and of such thickness that eight persons may ride upon it a-breast. It is 1500 *English* Miles long in a straight Line; for if you will count the Hills and vast Mountains upon which it is built in some Places, it would amount at least to 500 more. At each Miles distance there is a Tower. At the first Gate we entred, the Wall appear'd to be much decay'd; but at a *Musket-shot* from thence we passed through another Gate, which resembled a large Bastion. We were conducted through two more, and those three last enclosed a large place

place with their Walls, the three Gates serving for as many Bastions. Upon the first Wall we saw a very large *Corps de Guards*, where, as they told us, there was kept a constant Guard. At some distance from the first Wall without the Gate, there was also a Watch kept, consisting only of 20 Soldiers. About a Mile within the Wall we passed by to the left of us the City of *Galgan*, which is surrounded with a very fine stone Wall. Near this Place we met with the first *Chinese* Idols. It is to be admired what vast Numbers of Temples the *Chineses* have dedicated to their Idols, all their Cities and Villages are full of them, nay you meet with them upon inaccessible Mountains; they shew very well at a distance. But as to the Figures of their Idols, they are so dreadful as if they had been contrived on purpose to strike Terror into the Beholders. They are made either of Wood or Clay, and are sometimes gilt. In all their Temples you meet with a certain Idol, which being of a terrible aspect, holds a Scepter in his hand, him they call the *God of War*; and pay a great deal of Veneration to him. This God is surrounded with Drums of all sizes, which are beaten whilst they are at their Devotion.

We were Quartered in the Suburbs, and
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at our arrival were met by their Pipers and others who play'd upon Cymbals, and beat the Drums, but made a very doleful noise. The *Adogeda* invited us to Supper, where we were very well entertain'd, and were treated with *Tarrasun*, a Liquor made of Rice. After Supper the *Adogeda* diverted us with a Play, or rather Farce, acted by the Players that were sent from *Peking* to meet him. What was most remarkable was, that they acted the Mimicks to the life, and changed their Postures and Cloaths, which were extraordinary Magnificent, frequently to our great astonishment. On the 28th of *October* we passed by another *Chinese* City, and towards Evening arrived in the City of *Xantuning*, where the Ambassador was entertained by the Governor with a magnificent Feast, and another Play. All the Apartments were hung with very rich Tapistry, and the whole Entertainment was very noble. The Ambassador, the Governor and the *Adogeda*, were plac'd each on a Table by themselves, but we were all put together on one Table. The dishes were brought in one after another, but none taken away till after the Feast was ended. There were in all eight Courses, and as often as a dish (which were all of Purcelain) was brought in, the Clerk of the Kitchen

Kitchen led the way, admonishing the Guests to eat heartily. At the beginning of the Feast, the *Adogeda* putting out his Sticks, shew'd them to the Ambassador as a Signal, that we should follow his Example. Before Dinner we were entertained by a Boy of 10 years of age, who very naturally acted the Mimick, and made strange Postures upon the Ground, which was covered with Tapestry : Which done, seven Purcelain Cups were placed upon a Table, which he took up backwards with his mouth ; which he repeated afterwards, holding his hands upon his back. This was followed by an Entry, where a Man and a Woman acted the Lovers, and, to conclude the matter, a Man dressed up in a Tigers Skin pass'd through the Room upon all-fours, to the no small astonishment of those who were ignorant of the contrivance. The Feast lasted above three hours, and the *Adogeda* desiring the Ambassador to take a Walk with him, they were just going to take their leave, when one of the *Adogeda's* Servants whispering his Master, that the After-course was going to be served up, they changed their Resolution, and stay'd near two hours longer ; during which time they were again diverted by the Players, who changed their Cloaths 8 or 10 times.

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The 29th of *October* we came in sight of the City of *Xunguxu*; in this as well as in all other Cities where we pass'd, the Ambassador was treated with all imaginable Respect and Civility. We were again entertain'd in this City with a Play, in a Play-house fitted up for that purpose. In one of their Temples there, we saw a Goddess, which being of Stone 128 Feet high, had 700 Hands. I had often the curiosity to enter their Temples, and to take a view of their Idols, who are of very different shapes and figures, and very terrible to behold, but most magnificently dress'd. Near this Place there is a famous Pagan Temple built upon a very high Rock, near the Monastery of *Ju-gangu*.

On the 30th of *October*, as we were travelling upon the Road, we met a great Number of Men and Women, who followed an Idol carried by two Men, and play'd merrily upon their Pipes, Cymbals and Drums. The Ambassador asked the *Adogeda*, What the meaning was of this Procession? To which he answer'd, That they were going to a neighbouring Temple to perform their Devotion.

The same day we pass'd in sight of a goodly Place, called the *Red City*, the Residence of the Sister of the *Bogdegan*, and famous for the Tombs of several *Chans*. This City lies near the *Chinese* Wall; we were fain to take up our Lodgings that night in a Village. Early

the next morning the *Adogeda* sent word to the Ambassador, that, having some business of moment to dispatch, he begg'd his pardon that he could not wait upon him immediately, but that if he would be pleased to go before, he would follow him as soon as possibly he could. We had scarce rid three or four hours, when the *Adogeda's* Steward overtook us near one of their Temples, desiring us to tarry a little in this place, his Master being upon the Road to overtake us. We took this opportunity to take a view of the Temple where meeting with three more of the *Adogeda's* Servants, we saw them prostrate themselves first before the Idol that stood in the middle of the Temple, and afterwards to perform the same Ceremony to two others that stood on both sides of it. Towards noon we got to the City of *Xangote*, where having been entertained with a very handsome dinner by the Governor, we continued our Journey, and took up our nights Lodging in Countrey Town. The first of *November* the Ambassador was again treated at dinner by a Governor of another City, and was Quartersd also in another Countrey Town : night.

All the way as we passed along the Road we met with such a prodigious Number of most magnificent Temples, that we could not but admire at the ignorance of these pe
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ple, who shew so much Veneration to these Idols.

The 2^d of *November* we came to the great and famous City of *Tunxo*, situate on a River, where the Ambassador was invited also to dinner by the Governor, who conducted us afterwards out of the Town. That night we were Quartered in the next Town to the City of *Peking*. The City of *Tukxe* is famous for its Traffick in Purcelain, which is sold here much cheaper than in *Peking*. The *Chinesse* have a way of Pleating their Sails together in a very small Compass.

On the 3^d of *November*, towards noon, we made a publick Entry in the Capital City of *Peking*, in very good Order and great Splendor, the Streets being crowded with vast Numbers of Spectators on both sides of the way, which raised such a dust, that we scarce could see one another: We had our Lodgings assigned us in the Court, which is the ordinary Residence of Foreign Ambassadors.

On the 12th of *November* the *Adagada* and his *Tawares* or Associate, waited upon the Ambassador, to give him notice that he was to be admitted to his publick Audience the next day, and to be conducted thither by 30 Horses, desiring him to get his Credentials and the Presents ready against that time. He asked the Ambassador who was
to

to carry the Presents? and being answered, That this was to be performed by the *Cossacks*, he shew'd his dislike, desiring that it might be done by some of his Retinue; which the Ambassador refused, telling him, That when they were carried to the place where they were to be delivered, he would do it with his own hands, wherewith he was very well satisfied, desiring only, that they might be conveyed with good Couverts. Matters being thus settled, the Ambassador drank to him a Glas of *Spanish* Wine, to the Health of the *Dorgamba*; who being one of the first Men of the Empire, he took it off to the bottom; whereas before this time, we could never persuade any of them to pledge us, they being a very obstinate people, and very noisy with their Tongues, if not gratified in their desires.

It was the 14th of *November* before the Ambassador could be in readiness to deliver his Credentials, when we were conducted to Court in the following manner: 15 *Cossacks*, who carried the Presents, led the Van; these were followed by one of the Masters of the Jewel-Office belonging to the *Czar* of *Muscovy*. After him the Secretary of the Embassy, who carried the Credentials. After him came the Ambassador betwixt the two *Adogeda's*; and lastly, the rest of the Gentlemen belonging to the Ambassador.

At the Entrance of the Castle, we did alight from our Horses, and marched on foot through a long Gate, arch'd on the top. Before we entred the second Gate, we pass'd over a very fine Stone-Bridge, about 50 or 60 Paces long, on both sides of which we took notice of a Wall about three foot high, with many Figures cut in Stone. Within the Gate we were conducted through a very spacious Court, where we saw two large Pillars, very artificially wrought with variety of Figures. From thence we went into a very fine Hall, where we found two Tables. No sooner were we entred there, but the *Adogeda* desir'd the Ambassador to sit down upon the Ground upon such Bolsters as were brought thither for that purpose; and soon after we saw four Lords, who are the Chiefest of the whole Empire, to enter the Room before the *Bogdegan* himself. These four were the *Dorgamba*, the *Askamba*, the *Aligamba*, and the *Adogamba*. After the Credentials were delivered to the King himself, the Presents were given to the *Adogeda*, who laid them upon the two Tables. Which done, the *Dorgamba*, with the other three Lords, came up to the Ambassador, and after having made their Compliments, and

given him each both their Hands, the *Dorgamba*, after his congratulatory Speech upon our happy arrival, enquir'd after Health of both their *Czarish Majesties*, telling him, that his Credentials should be forthwith translated, and he to receive an Answer to the same. After which, he told him what allowance was to be given to himself and his Retinue; to wit: every day for the Ambassador himself, two Sheep, one Goose, three Pullets, three Fish, a large measure of Flower, a large measure of Rice, two Pound of Butter, two Papers of *Thee*, Salt, and other Things proportionable, besides two Gallons of *Tarrasun*. The rest of his Retinue and other Servants, had the same Allowance as before, with some addition of Flower, Butter and *Tarrasun*.

The Ambassador being reconducted to his Quarters by the two *Adogeda's*, scarce three hours were pass'd, before the youngest of the two *Adogeda's* brought word, that the *Czar's* Letters had been receiv'd with a great deal of Satisfaction, desiring him in the *Bogdegan's* Name, to come and take a share, with all his Retinue of his own Table. As they were going along the Streets to Court on Horse-back, the *Adogeda* told the Ambassador, that he ought

ought to look upon this Invitation as a most particular Grace, it being not customary for Ambassadors to receive this Honour immediately after the delivery of their Credentials.

Being entred the same Hall where the Credentials had been deliver'd before, the *Adogeda* invited the Ambassador to sit down, and soon after entred the same four Lords before the *Bogdegan*, and saluted the Ambassador very obligingly. Immediately after, four Tables were brought into the Room, two of which were cover'd with forty Silver Dishes, full of all Sorts of Sweet-Meats, for the Ambassador, the other two (where there were also some Sweet-Meats, and a Dish with boil'd cold Mutton) fell to our share. After Dinner, we were treated with *Thee* boil'd in Milk, in wooden Dishes, which we took, and re-delivered to the Servants; with making deep Reverences. So soon as the Ambassador arose from the Table, all his Sweet-Meats were given to his Attendants; but what was left upon our Tables, was divided among the *Cosacks*.

The 16th of *November*, the *Dorgamba*, with several other *Chinese* Lords, and the two *Adogeda's*, came to pay a Visit to

the Ambassador; who entertain'd them with a Sett of very good Musick, at which they seem'd to be extreamly well satisfied; and after they had staid some time, the Ambassador made to the *Dorgamba* these following Presents.

A large Looking-Glass with a black wooden Frame. A less Looking-Glass.

A round Looking-Glass with a gilt Frame. Two Watches.

Twenty pieces of gilt Leather.

Several fine Cuts.

Six very fine Crystal-Glasses.

A large Case for Glasses.

Three large Dogs spotted like Tygers.

A fine black Gun-Dog.

A piece of fine Hollin Linen-Cloth.

Four Lac'd Handkerchiefs;

Besides some Sables, black Foxes, Ermins, and other *Siberian* Commodities, which were received in a most obliging manner by the *Dorgamba*. On the 17th of *November*, two Heralds at Arms, were sent to invite the Ambassador and fourteen of the Gentlemen of his Retinue, to the *Bogdegan's* Table; and we were not a Musket-shot from our Quarters, before we were met by the *Aaogeda's*, who conducted us into the Castle. Being entered the same Hall, where we had deliver'd
our

our Credentials before. The *Adogeda* presented the Ambassador and his Retinue, with Chairs; immediately after, came the four abovementioned Lords, who after having paid their Complements to the Ambassador, asked him, whether he could speak *Latin*; and being answer'd, he did not: they asked further, whether any of his Retinue were Masters of the said Language; and it being told him, that there was one who had some Knowledge of it, but not to perfection; they left us to return our Answer to the *Bogdegan*. We sat above four or five hours before word was brought us, that we were to come to the *Bogdegan*; but were in the mean while treated with *Thee* boil'd in Milk by the *Adogeda*. An account was likewise taken of our Names, how many there were of us; which done, the *Adogeda* receiv'd Orders to conduct us. We pass'd through three several Gates, and as many large and handsome Courts; among which, one deserves to be particularly taken notice of. For in the midst of it, there was a Bridge of Marble, sustain'd by very fine Arches; under which was a Water, which being call'd, the *Bogdegan's Fish-Pond*, had the resemblance of a fair small River, and surrounded the Castle.

So soon as we entered the Room, where the *Bogdegan* was seated upon his Throne, the Ambassador was plac'd by the *Adogeda's* on one side of the Throne, which was surrounded with above three hundred Courtiers, who all wore the Emperour's Armes upon their Breasts and Backs. The Roof of this Room was extraordinary high, and the sides adorn'd with a great number of Marble Statues. Just opposite to it was the Emperour's Temple, a most magnificent Structure. On the other side of the Room, you look'd into another Court, where were the Lodgings of the Euchs and other Women, that attended in the Emperour's *Seraglio*. The Ambassador was placed on the left-hand of the Throne, and his Attendance about four Rods behind him, on the right-hand; just opposite to the Ambassadors were the four abovementioned Lords; About forty Persons, armed with Half-Pikes and Battle-Axes attended about the Throne: We had not sat very long, before we saw a Table cover'd all over with Dishes of Massive Gold, and fill'd with Sweet-Meats brought in, which was set before the Emperour; After this, two Tables with Sweet-Meats were brought in for the four Lords; and next to them, another Table with

with Sweet-Meats for the Ambassador ; several Tables were placed for us, three belonging to a Table ; The Sweet-Meats were all serv'd in Silver Dishes ; besides which there were Grapes, Apples, Pears, Chesnuts, China-Oranges, Citrons, and other Fruits. As for the *Chineses*, of whom there were above a hundred, each had his own Table, with several Dishes of Meat.

So soon as we saw the Emperour begin to eat, we were obliged to pay our Reverence by a low inclination of the Head, and then we eat of what was before us. After Dinner, which lasted above three hours, two large Cups of Brandy were presented to the *Bogdegan*, who ordered the *Dorgamba* and another Great Lord, to conduct the Ambassador upon the Throne ; Being advanc'd upon the Steps, the *Dorgamba*, by orders from the Emperour, presented one of these Cups to the Ambassador, telling him, that he must make a low Reverence, and drink it all off at a Draught.

In the mean while, some *Jesuits* having been sent for, they appear'd instantly, and by Orders from the Emperour, spoke to the Ambassador in *Latin* ; who answering them in *Italian*, that he was not

very well vers'd in the *Latin* Tongue, one of the Fathers began to talk in *Italian* with the Ambassador, whom he asked many Questions, and among the rest, How long it was since he left *Muscovy*? Unto which he having given a suitable Answer, he was re-conducted to his place. We were also each in his turn, placed opposite to the Throne, and presented with a golden Cup of Brandy, which after we had taken up, with a very low Reverence, we were re-conducted to our respective places. Soon after we as well as the *Chineses* there present, had some *Thee* boil'd in Milk presented to us in wooden Dishes, which as before we received, and return'd with a very low bow to the very ground. The Tables being remov'd, we were conducted out of the Room, which done, both the *Adogeda's* made a sign to the Ambassador to follow them into another Apartment, which was done, because we should not see the *Bogdegan* descend from his Throne. He is originally a *Mongul Tartar*, of a brown Complexion, of about 45 years of Age.

The Ambassador desir'd to be dismiss'd for that time, but the *Dorgamba* return'd from the Emperour, and asked the Ambassador, whether he could tell any tidings concern-

concerning some *Jesuits*, who about three years before intended to travel to *China*, by the way of *Muscovy*, but were stopt in their Journey? The Ambassador having answer'd that he knew nothing of them, the *Dorgamba* return'd with this Answer to the Emperour. In the mean while we were conducted to our former places, where the *Adogeda* desir'd the Ambassador to sit down a little, till the Sweet-Meats that were left, could be given to our Servants, which was done accordingly; it being a very antient Custom among the *Chineses*, always to let the Remnants of the Emperour's Table to be carried home. Our Servants being well loaden with Sweet-Meats, the two *Adogeda's* reconducted the Ambassador to his Quarters.

On the 18th of *November*, we as well as the *Cosacks* were entertain'd at our Quarters from the Emperour's Table. There was a Table in the Ambassador's Apartment for his own use, those for the Gentlemen was laid in the Hall. All the Tables being cover'd with Meats, two of the *Bogdegan's* Courtiers came to desire the Ambassador and his Retinue in the Emperour's Name to sit down, which we did with a profound Reverence, in
re-

respect to his Imperial Majesty. Our Dishes were, boil'd Geese, Pullers, Eggs, and all sorts of Meats; Grapes, Apples, Pears, Wall-nuts, Chestnuts, Citrons, China-Oranges, all sorts of Preserves and Sweet-Meats. The *Cosacks* din'd in the Court; and before Dinner, were all presented with *Thee* boil'd in Milk. Towards Evening the two *Adogeda's* came to tell the Ambassador, that the *Bogdegan* was going to make a Progress for 20 days; and on the 7th of *December*, they came to give us notice of his return to *Peking*.

On the 8th we were again invited to the *Bogdegan's* Table, where we were treated in the same manner as before. On the 11th the *Askamba* and *Surgusbey*, were sent by the *Bogdegan*, to invite the Ambassador and his Retinue to be present at a great Feast at Court, and to be conducted through the left-side of the Castle, whereas before, we had been brought in through the Great Court on the right-side.

Accordingly next Morning, five hours before day-light, the two *Adogeda's* came to our Quarters, and conducted us on Horse-back to the Castle, where being entred on the left-side, the *Adogeda's* desired the Ambassador to sit down, where
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we were treated several times with *Thee* ; in the mean while that one of the *Adogeda's* was gone to receive his further Instructions. At break of day, both the *Adogeda's* led us into a Court, where we saw two Elephants of an extraordinary bigness, with very rich Furnitures : Opposite to them, we saw a great many Drums plac'd upon the Ground, near which stood the Emperour's Guards, cloath'd in red Damask, and all round the Court we saw above a hundred Chairs, belonging to the *Chinese* Lords. Being from thence conducted to the place where the *Bogdegan* was to make his Appearance, we entred on the left-side, where we saw several hundreds *Chinese* Lords very magnificently dress'd, with the Emperour's Armes upon their Backs and Breasts, sitting upon Bolsters or Cushions, upon the ground. Their Caps were adorn'd with the Feathers of Peacocks, which were fastn'd to them with fine Crystals. Those of the first Rank had very large Saphirs upon their Caps. Near to these we had our Seats assign'd us ; and scarce had we thus sat an hour, when by the discharge of a Cannon (which made no great noise) a signal was given for the *Chineses* to rise, whilst the *Bogdegan* was coming

coming in to mount his Throne, which stood directly opposite to the Door, thro' which we were introduc'd. All on a sudden we heard a Chime of Bells, which being the signal for the *Chineses*, they in very good Order made their appearance before the *Bogdegan*: In the mean while, a certain Person who stood near the *Bogdegan*, read for above an hour with a very loud and audible Voice out of a Book, which done, we heard very fine singing at some distance from us; After this two Drums were beat, which being another signal to the *Chineses*, they fell upon their Knees, bending their Heads to the ground, three times, one after another. Then they rise, and several Musical Instruments made an agreeable Harmony for some time, during which they performed the same reverence twice more, and so took their Seats again. We were then conducted by the two *Adogedan's* in the presence of the *Bogdean*, where we performed the same Ceremony in the same manner as the *Chineses* had done; And the Ambassador being led by the Hand by the *Adogeda* up to the *Bogdegan's* Throne, had the honour to receive a dish of *Thee* from the *Bogdegan's* own hands. We were likewise, after we had taken our Seats,
again

again treated with *Thee* boil'd in Milk, being obliged every time we took and re-delivered the Cup, to turn our left-Leg under our Bodies, and so to make a low Inclination with our Heads. Soon after, the Ambassador being re-conducted by the *Adogeda* to his Seat, the *Chineses*, all on a sudden, plac'd themselves on the right-side upon their bended Knees, knocking their Heads against the Ground three times, whilst the *Bogdegan* was descending from the Throne. We were led by the two *Adogeda's* to the same place, where we were obliged to perform the same Ceremony. That part of the Court where the *Bogdegan's* Throne was plac'd, was lin'd with his Guards, cloth'd in red Damask, and arm'd with Battle-Axes and Half-Piques. The Solemnity being ended, we pass'd again through the place where before we had deliver'd our Credentials, in order to our return to our Quarters; but the *Adogeda's* desiring the Ambassador to stay a little longer, there being some *Chinesse* Lords, who were very ambitious to see the Ambassador and his Retinue, he granted his request. As we were coming out of the Castle, we saw one of the Elephants, which was shewn us before, draw a great Waggon, in

in which was the *Bogdegan's* Throne ; we were scarce return'd to our Quarters, when the *Adogeda* again entreated the Ambassador to go along with him to the *Bogdegan's* Play-house, vvhhere a very diverting Play vvas acted that day. He invited not only the Ambassador's Retinue, but also all the Merchants and *Cosacks*, to partake of the Show. And as vve vvere on our way thither, we met several *Chinese* Lords, among whom was the *Askamba*, who came on purpose to bear the Ambassador Company thither. Before Dinner we had the diversion of seeing a Fellow play all sorts of Tricks. He took a stick, which was sharp at one end in his Hand, on which he fixed a large round wooden Ball, which turn'd it self without intermission upon the Stick, till he threw it in the Air, and catch'd it again upon the point of the Stick, where it rowl'd about like before ; Secondly, he took another Stick, but not so big as the former, which he fixed upon his upper Lip ; in the middle of this Stick was a small wooden Horse, which continually turn'd about the Stick, as did another wooden Ball on the top of the Stick. Sometimes he put the Stick upon his Thumb, where it perform'd the same operation.

peration. Thirdly, he put the same Stick through a certain Instrument, not unlike our Flutes, which he held in his Mouth. On the point of the Stick he had fixed two Knives, not unlike our Shoe-maker's Knives, with their Edges to one another, which turn'd themselves upon the Stick to the no small astonishment of the Spectators. Fourthly, he took three ordinary Knives, two of which he kept steady in his left-hand, but no sooner had he thrown the third up in the Air, but the other two follow'd, which he catch'd all three by the Handles. He shew'd us also several fine Postures on Horse-back, and whilst we were very magnificently treated at Dinner, we had the diversion of the Play, which lasted till night; when we return'd home well satisfied with our Entertainment.

The 18th of *December*, both the *Adogeda's* came to salute the Ambassador in the Name of the *Dorgamba*, and to invite him and the Chiefest of his Domesticks to pass the next day at his House. The next Morning his Horses stood ready to attend us at our Quarters, from whence we went directly to the *Dorgamba's* Palace. We were conducted by the *Adogeda's* in a small apartment, where
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we found the *Dorgamba* ready to receive the Ambassador, which he did in very obliging terms. Soon after we were treated with *Thee* boil'd in Milk, and the Ambassador having communicated for some time with the *Dorgamba*, concerning the Instructions, he had received from their *Czarish* Majesty's, the Ambassador was conducted from thence into the Dining-Room. As we entred the Room, the Players who were very magnificently dress'd, stood ready to begin the Play, which they did accordingly ; It is the Custom in *China* for the Actors to give a Book, containing the Contents of many Plays, to the Master of the Feasts, out of which he chuses which he likes best, which is commonly perform'd by singing in the nature of our *Opera's*.

The *Dorgamba* sat at a Table by himself, next to him was plac'd the Ambassador at another Table, and next to him the two *Adogeda's* at another. Two other Tables were brought in for the Ambassador's Retinue ; we were treated with great deal of Splendor. Our Drink was *Aqua vite* prepared with Cinnamon, which was brought to us in golden Cups, and we were forced to take it off quite to the bottom, the *Dorgamba* shewing us the way
by

by his own Example. The Floor was covered all over with Tapistry, and behind the *Dorgamba* stood a little Page with a Basket made of Straw-work, which was the *Dorgamba's* Spitting-Pot. Thus we spent the greatest part of the day with a great deal of Diversion, and on the 19th, being a great Feast day at Court, we were again splendidly Entertained at the *Bogdegan's* Table.

In the year 1694. on the 6th of *January*, and on the 16th, we were again invited to the *Bogdegan's* Table. On the 26th of the same month, the *Dorgamba* obliged us with the sight of a very fierce Panther, and the same day we were again admitted to the *Bogdegan's* Table. On the 27th we paid a visit to the Jesuits, who treated us with a very good Breakfast; Their Church is a very curious piece of Architecture, with a fine Organ, which is placed on the outside of it towards the Street. There were at that time eight Fathers of that Society at *Peking*. On the 29th it was a hard Frost, with a strong North Wind and abundance of Snow. On the 4th of *February* both the *Adogeda's* brought Orders for the Ambassador to make his Appearance at Court. Accordingly we went on Horseback to Court on the 5th of *February*, where after we

had been entertain'd very splendidly at the *Bogdegan's* Table, the Ambassador was told, that according to his desire he should be dismiss'd in twelve nights.

Accordingly on the 15th of *Febr.* the *Bogdegan* sent one of his Coutiers to the Ambassador to desire him to come to Court the next morning with all his Attendance, and the *Cosacks*, to receive the usual Presents of the *Bogdegan*. The day before we went to Court we were treated at the *Bogdegan's* Charge at our Quarters, when the Ambassador with his whole Attendance went on Horseback, being conducted by the *Azogeda's* into a spacious Court, where we received the following Presents.

A Horse, with Bridle and Saddle, and all other Accoutrements.

A *Chinese* Cap, with a Silk Puff on the top of it.

A Sur toot of Damask Brocaded with Gold Serpents, and lined with Lamb-Skins.

A Scarff, a Knife, 6 Handkerchiefs, and 2 Tobacco Bags.

A pair of Leather Boots, and a pair of Silk Stockings.

A piece of Black Sattin of 10 yards.

A piece of *Ludan* of 20 yards.

16 pieces of *Kitaick*.

7 *Laz* of Silver worth 14 Crowes.

The

The Ambassador's Gentlemen had each of them the following Presents.

A *Chinese* Cap, with a red Silk Puff on the top.

A Damask Surtoot lined with Lambs-Skin.

A piece of Sattin of 10 yards.

A piece of *Ludan* of 10 yards.

A Scarff, with a Knife, 2 Tobacco Baggs, and 6 Handkerchiefs.

One pair of Leather Bootes, with a pair of Silk Stockings quilted with Cotton.

16 pieces of *Kitaick*.

One *Lan* and a half of Silver worth 3 Crowns.

The *Cosacks* and Servants received each the following Presents.

A piece of Sattin of 10 yards.

Eight pieces of *Kitaick*.

One *Lan* of Silver.

On the 18th of *February*, the Ambassador being again invited to Court, the *Doygamba* told him, that if he were ready for his departure, the Carriages should attend him the next morning at his Quarters. I am not ignorant that in this place I ought to give the Reader a particular Account of the Manners, Customs and Religion of the *Chineſes*; but I will content my self to give only in this

Journal a general Account of the Empire of *China*, and its Capital City called *Peking*.

The most Potent Empire of *China* is known under several Names among Foreign Nations. The *Tartars* call it *Katay*, those of *Siam*, *Sin*, the *Japanneses*, *Than*, and some of the *Tartarian* Nations call it *Han*. The *Chineses* themselves have given it many Sir-names; for among the many Families that have sway'd the *Chinese* Scepter, each Founder of its Race has assigned it its particular Title. Thus it is called *Than*, (broad without measure) *Ta*, (Peace), *Tba*, (large), *Sciama*, (pleasant), *Chen*, (complete); But among all the rest, the *Chineses* have retain'd two, the first of which is, *Chungehoa*, that is, the *Middle Empire*, and *Chunque*, which is the *Middle Garden*, being of Opinion that the Earth was four Square, and their Empire in the midst of it.

This vast Country was in the year before the Birth of Christ 2254, divided into 12 Provinces by their Emperor *Xucus*, and by his Successor *Iva* into 9, which at that time comprehended only the Northern Provinces, as far as the River *Kiang*. But after the Southern Parts were united with this Empire, it was divided into
fifteen

fifteen Provinces. Most of them were formerly under the Jurisdiction of their own Princes, but after they were Conquered and United with the *Chinese* Crown, were Governed by Viceroy's, who to this day have the Administration of Affairs in those Places. It is divided into the Northern and Southern Part. The first is that which is properly called *Katay* by the *Tartars*, and comprehends 5 Provinces: to wit, *Peking*, *Xantung*, *Xanfi*, *Xiemsfi*, *Honan*, to which some add the Province of *Leaotung*; and the Peninsula of *Corea*. The other 9 Provinces, are; *Nanking*, *Chekiang*, *Kianesi*, *Hu-quang*, *Suchuen*, *Queichen*, *Junnan*, *Quangsi*, *Quantung*, *Feckien*, which by one general Name are called by the *Tartars*, *Mangin*. The North and Southern Provinces are divided by the River *Kiang*, (by the *Chineses*, called the *Son of the Ocean*.) The Empire of *China* borders on the East on the great *Eastern Ocean*, called by the *Chineses*, *Tung*. Towards the North, on the *Chinese* Wall, which divides it from the *Great Tartary*; on the West it has the Mountain of *Thebet* to the Confines of *Bengala*: On the South-side is the Kingdom of *Cochinchina*, which is Tributary to the *Chineses* Empire. Its

whole Breadth, from the Isle of *Hanon*, situate under the 18th Degree of North Latitude, to the 42th Degree of North Latitude, is 330 *German Leagues*. Its length from the West, under the 112th Degree, till East under the 34th Degree, near the City *Ningpo* or *Nampo*, is 450 *German Leagues*.

This whole Empire seems both by Art and Nature made impregnable. For on the West side is the Mountain of *Thebet*, and the great Defart of *Xama*; On the North side the famous *Chinese* Wall, which was begun to be built in the year 215 before Christ's Birth, and was finished in 5 years; On the South and East it is surrounded with the Ocean, where by reason of the many Rocks and Sands there is no safe Landing unless it be in a few places.

The City of *Peking*, the Capital of the Empire, and Residence of its Kings, has borrowed its Name from the Province of *Peking*, which on the East Borders on the great Gulph betwixt *Corea* and *Japan*; on the North-East upon the Province of *Leaotung*, on the North upon the *Great Tartary*, and part of the *Chinese* Wall, and on the West the Province of *Xanfi*. This Province has 8 famous Cities, to wit;
Peking,

Peking, Paoting, Hokiona, Chinting, Xunte, Quanping, Taming, and Junping: The City of *Peking* is situate under 39 Degrees 59 Minutes upon the Northern Confines of the Province of *Peking*, not far from the famous *Chinese* Wall. On the South side it is fortified with two very strong and high Walls. The Suburbs are enclosed in one single Wall, with 3 very good Bastions on each side of the Gate. You enter these Suburbs by a Bridge built over a River, which to the North side surrounds the Wall; from the Suburbs through the South Gate, it is half an hour's walking before you come to the Body of the City, where, at the Entrance there is a very high Bastion, and as you turn to the left, another well-mounted with Cannon, from whence you may go into the City through the Old Gate. There are many other Bastions to be seen all round the Walls, where every night the Garison keeps as strict a Guard as if an Enemy were near at hand; but in the day time, the Emperor's Gentlemen of the Bed-Chamber Guards the Gates, not so much for its Defence, as to look after the Customs, which are to be paid there. The Citizens Houses are generally finely built, and the Palaces of
Persons

Persons of Quality very stately Structures, but their greatest Magnificence appears in their Triumphal Arches. Their Temples are Adorned with Steeples of an extraordinary height, and most Artificially built: But the Streets of this so stately City are in no wise suitable to its Grandeur, there being very few among them Paved with Stones, which seems to be strange in a place where they don't want these Materials, the Streets being extremely inconvenient and troublesome to walk both in fair and foul weather. In dry weather, when the Wind blows from the North, the Dust is raised all over the City to that degree, that it spoils every thing in the Houses. The Inhabitants preserve themselves a little when they go abroad, by wearing a thin Veil almost like our Gawses, over their Faces, which comes down to their Breasts; besides that, they can see every body that passes without being seen by them, and without exposing their Faces to the Dust; they enjoy by it this conveniency, that they are not obliged to those frequent Salutes and other Ceremonies which are so much admired, and otherwise practised among the *Chinenses*.

All the *Chinese* Women are of a very low Stature, those of Quality have very little Feet, in which they take a particular pride, for which reason they keep them extraordinary streightned, to such an excess, that many thereof quite lose the use of their Feet. It is look'd upon as very ignominious among the *Chinese* Ladies to shew their naked Feet. There is scarce a Street Bridge or Gate in the City of *Peking*, where you don't meet with Horses or Alles, which may be hir'd for a small price to go up and down the Streets, where a Servant attends you and your Horse. The Streets are always crouded with People; here you may see one dance upon the Rope, in another place you see one upon the Stage, who is surrounded with many Auditors, unto whom he relates certain Stories, and these reward him for his pains with a kind of Brass-Money, which being four square, sign'd on one side with four Characters, and a hole in the middle for the conveniency of carrying them upon a string, ten of them make no more than a Penny. But when any thing is to be bought or paid with Silver they use this method: they always wear by their sides a pair of Shears, and Weights enclosed in wooden Cases in their Pockets,

Pockets, by which means they cut the Silver Plates, and weigh of it as much as they have occasion for at that time. You meet sometimes in the Streets certain *Chinenses*, who beat their Breasts with stones, others knock their Heads against Stones, till the Blood follows. There is scarce a Street but what has many Publick-houses, which are distinguished by their Sign-Posts, where you find it written what sort of Liquor they sell within. These Houses are very neatly kept, and affording good Accommodation.

But it is time to look backwards, and to give you a short Account of our return to *Muscovy*.

On the 19th of *February* towards Evening, we began our Journey from *Peking*, being conducted out the Town by the two *Adogeda's*, and several other Persons of Quality to the next Village. About five days Journey from *Peking*, the *Surgushey* (who was to conduct us as far as to the City of *Naun*) brought us through an old ruined City, where in one of their Temples, we saw an Idol made of Clay but richly gilt, representing a Woman; it was about 15 yards high, and had many Heads and Hands. Not far from thence in a Gallery, you saw another Figure, resembling

sembling a Woman-kind, which they said, was her Daughter, lie in a Bed of Damask Quilt, cover'd with rich *Chinese* Carpets.

On the 30th of *May*, we came to the City of *Nann*, and took up our Quarters in the Village *Suttigart*. On the 5th of *April*, I was surpris'd in my Quarters by a very strange Spectacle; For my Host's Daughter appear'd all on a sudden, as if she had been possess'd by the Devil, making such horrid out-cries, as put us all in a fright. After she had thus continued for some time, she began to sing very agreeably for half an hour, when the other Women there present, having begun to sing certain Verses, she answered them immediately. I was so curious as to enquire, what could be the meaning of all this; to which they reply'd, that there being a Neighbour's Child very ill, this Virgin had been consulted concerning her Recovery, she being one vvho vvvas in great Esteem among them, and look'd upon as a Saint. The Neighbours vvvere no sooner departed, but an Aunt of hers took a fevv Coals, upon vvhich she threw certain Incenses, vvhich holding near her Face, she soon opened her Eyes, and recovered her Senses.

On the 14th of *April*, vve set forvvard in our Journey from *Naun*, in Company of a *Chinese* Envoy, vvho being a native of the City of *Margenn*, vvvas sent by the *Bogdegan*, to the *Wayvvode* of *Narzinskoy*. On the 23th of *April*, vve pass'd over a very high Mountain, not vvithout a great deal of difficulty, the *Snow* being above a Yard high on the top. On the 25th, vve changed our Course, being forevvarr'd by our Guide, vvho vvvas a *Tungoesse*, that three or four thousand *Mongul Tartars* laid in Ambush for us, expecting our coming at a certain place. This obliged the Ambassador to chuse another Road more to the right. On the 27th, vve came to the River *Laduna*, vvhere vve halted for some time. On the 2d of *May*, vve pass'd over the River *Keilar*, and vve had not travell'd very far, before on the third of *May*, vve vvve overraken by a Fire: For the *Mongul Tartars*, finding they had miss'd their Aim, had out of Revenge, set fire to the long and dry Grass, which was remaining, after the Winter Season, in the Desert, which being augmented by the violent Winds that blew towards us, surprised us so on a sudden, that we had not time enough left us, to save our Tents. If this
Fire

Fire had surpris'd us as we were upon our march, scarce any body would have escap'd the Flames that surronded us on all sides. But now we had the good fortune to save our Cattle, and the damage received by the Fire was inconsiderable on our side, what was endamaged in our Carriages, being all repair'd in one day. The worst was, that being deprived of Forage, some of our Cattle died daily for want of it, and we our selves began to be much strighted for Provisions. For which reason the Ambassador dispatched three *Cosacks* to the *Waynade* of *Nartzinckoy*, to sollicite prompt Succors of Cattle and Provisions. And wherever we could light of any Horses or Camels, we bought them up at a dear rate; the first at 40 and 50, the last at 70 or 80 *Rubels* a piece.

The 8th of *May*, we came to the River *Margenn*, where meeting with good Forage, we staid two days to refresh our Cattle. And as we were travelling, we lost one of our *Russian* Servants, who having lost his Horse, was lost himself in looking after it. On the 12th, we pass'd the River *Gann* with our loaden Camels and Horses; and finding the Trees hereabouts full of green Leaves and a pleasant

fant Country, we staid here two days. On the 15th of *May*; we met the Convoy, which by order of the Governour of *Nartzinskoy*, was sent us from *Argunn*. They came to us in very good time ; for if they had staid two days longer, our Cattle must all have perish'd, and we been driven to the necessity of feeding on Horse-Flesh ; for most of our Servants had lost their Horses before, and were fain to march on Foot through the Desert. On the 21th of *May*, notwithstanding there was a deep Snow faln the night before, we Ferry'd over the River of *Argunn*, a long days Journey from the City of the same name, where we staid till the 25th and provided our selves with all Necessaries, enough to serve us till we came to *Nartzinskoy*. Most of our Attendance began to be very sickly hereabouts, by reason, that having not been used to any Bread before these six Months, they eat of it with too much greediness. At some distance from *Argunn*, the Ambassad'or, with some of his *German* and *Russian* Attendance left the *Caravan*, making the best of their way towards *Nartzinskoy*. On the 1st of *June*, we came to a small River, which being by the late Rains rendred impassable by Horses, we were
sign

feign to strip, and so to swim over our selves and our Horses. On the second, we arriv'd safely at *Nartzinskoy*, as did our *Caravan* on the 9th following. The 13th of *June*, three *Tungoeses* brought the *Russian* Servant, whom we had lost on the 8th of *May* in the *Desart* to *Nartzinskoy*. He had swarved about the *Desart* for three days, having no other Food, but Herbs and Roots, and meeting at last with these three *Tungoeses*, whom he believed to have been *Mongul Tartars*, he put himself in a posture of defence, and would not have surrendred himself, if his Horse had not been so tir'd, as not to be able to stir any longer. On the 3d of *July*, we set forward from *Nartzinskoy*, after the Ambassador had dispatch'd two Messengers to *Mosco*, to notifie our safe arrival, to Their *Czarish* Majesties; and on the same day the *Chinese* Envoy, whom we mentioned before, return'd from thence to *Nann*. This last Winter, whilst we were at *Peking*, 350 *Cosacks* of *Nartzinskoy*, and 500 *Tungoeses*, had made an Incurfion into the Territories of the *Mongul Tartars*, through the *Desarts* of *Nartzinskoy*, with such Success, that they had attack'd and ruin'd their Habitations on two several places, put all the
old

old ones to the Sword, and carried off the young ones into Slavery. The 13th of *July*, we came to *Plotbm*, the 15th to the Lake of *Shock*, the 19th to the Lake of *Jerawena*, near which are three Lakes more. On the 21th of *July*, our two Messengers, who had been dispatch'd to *Mosco*, as we mention'd before, return'd to us in a pitiful Condition, they having been overtaken about 10 Miles from *Udinsko*, by some *Mongul Tartars*, who had robb'd and stript them, but had not taken their Letters from them. On the 22th, we foarded the River *Ena*, which falls into the River *Uda*: And on the 26th the River *Kurba*, which running with a very swift current, disembogues likewise in the River *Uda*. On the 27th, in the Afternoon, we arriv'd safely at *Udinsko*, where we sold our Camels and Horses at five *Rubels* a-piece; whereas the Camels had cost us 35 and 40 *Rubels*, and the Horses 10 and 15 a-piece. On the 28th, we imbarqu'd our selves on board two large Vessels; and towards Evening went on Shoar in a great Village, call'd *Saimko-jam Linsko*, on the left-side of the River *Selinga*. On the 29th in the Afternoon, we let Sail from thence, and on the 31th came to the entrance of the Lake of *Baikala*,

kela, where we were fain to lay by for two hours, and afterwards row'd three miles further, before we could make use of our Sails. Towards Evening the wind chopping about, we were droven back for several miles, and at last met with a place fit for Anchorage. The Winds being somewhat laid, we early in the Morning set Sail again, and happily made the River of *Angara*, and so arriv'd on the first of *August*, toward Noon at *Irkutskoy*. On the 5th, we again set Sail from hence towards *Jenekiskoy*. On the 11th, we went on shoar in a Town belonging to the *Bratskoy*, on the left-side of the River of *Angara*, into which falls hereabouts another very large River. We left that Place again the same day in the Afternoon, and had not sail'd above a Mile, when we were forced to pass a very dangerous Cataract (or Water-fall) call'd *Pogmaly*. Not far from thence we pass'd another, call'd *Pyan*, much longer than the former; and no sooner were the Vessels brought over this dangerous Place, but they were in danger of having been swallowed up in a Whirl-pool. On the 12th of *August*, we came to another Cataract, call'd *Poduna*, where we were fain to unload our Vessels; the Passage being very

I

freight

streight and dangerous. On the 13th, we pass'd another Cataract, not so dangerous as the former, but which continued for four or five miles. On the 14th, we came to an Anchor near the Cataract, call'd *Skamansko*, till we could be provided with expert Watermen, who being acquainted with the River, brought our Vessels safely without being unloaden (the Water being very high) over the Cataract, tho' it was near three Miles long. On the 16th, before Noon, we pass'd by the River *Itim*, which falls on the right-hand into the River *Tungusko*, as the *Angara* does to the left. We pass'd the same day over another Cataract; and on the 17th left the River *Ketto* to the right of us. On the 19th, we pass'd over three several Cataracts, near the last of which, we were met by a Messenger, whose name being *Andrekniboff*, had been dispatch'd by the Ambassador from *Nart-zinskoy* to *Musco*. On the 22d, we left the River *Kama* to the right of us; and on the 25th in the Morning, pass'd over another most dangerous Cataract, and arrived safely the same Evening at *Jenekiskoy*. We continued our Journey from thence on the 1st of *September* by Land to *Makoffsko*, where we arriv'd the 3d day,
and

and on the 7th, set forward again towards *Tobolsko*. On the 12th, we din'd in a Monastery, but did not stay longer than till night. On the 23d, early in the Morning, we came to *Jam-Kutskoy*; and on the 26th towards Evening, to the City of *Narim*, about a Mile distance from the River *Oby*, where we embarqu'd on the 28th, but came on shoar again in the Afternoon, by reason of a strong North-wind; which was quite contrary to us; we were fain to lie here till the 30th. On the 3d of *October*, the Wind veering about again to the North, we were obliged to come to anchor again till night; when we pass'd by the River *Wacht*. The 4th, the Wind blew strong again from the North, so that we were fain to lie still till the next Morning. On the 6th, we were stopt again by the North-wind, besides which, it froze very hard that night. On the 8th, we got on shoar at *Surgutt*; and on the 9th the North-wind blew very strong against us, with great Snows and a hard Frost, so that we were obliged to stay on shoar till the 11th, when it began to thaw; but the North-wind continued till the 13th, in the Morning, when we set Sail again, and pass'd by two Villages; the 14th, in the Forenoon, we entred

the River *Irtish*; and on the 15th, early in the Morning, arriv'd safely at *Samarskojam*.

The Ambassador being indisposed staid there till the 14th of *November*, when; being restor'd to his former Health by the use of proper Remedies, and the River *Irtish* being quite frozen up in the mean while, we continued our Journey from *Samarskojam* in Sleds. On the 19th, we came to *Demjansto*; and on the 20th to *Tobolsko*. Betwixt *Samarskojam* and *Tobolsko*, we pass'd by abundance of Huts belonging to the *Ostiaki*, most of Wood, and the Roads were hereabouts very narrow and not well beaten. On the 17th of *December*, we left *Tobolsko*; and the 20th in the Afternoon arrived at *Tumen*. From thence we went on the 21st, and came on the 23d too early in the Morning to the City of *Japantshin*, where we staid only till the next day; and on the 27th early in the Morning, arrived in the City of *Wergaturia*, from whence we went further on in our Journey the 28th.

In the Year 1695, on *New-years-day*, we came to the City of *Sotokamskoy*, where we staid till the next day; On the 5th we reach'd *Kaigorod*, which we left again the 6th; and on the 9th came

to *Jam-Usga*, situate upon the River *Sissilla*. The 9th we din'd at *Jata Pyoldie*, and the 11th at *Janrspas Uspilsko*. The 12th we reach'd *St. Soto Witzogda*, where we staid the next day till towards Evening. The 14th we came to the City of *Utingha*, and left it again the 15th towards Evening. The 18th we din'd in the City of *Totma*, where we staid till the 19th towards night. The 21st, early in the Morning we reach'd *Schusca-jam*, and continued our Journey from thence the next day. The 25th we came to *Jeresla*, where we only staid till night. On the 27th to *Peresla*, from whence we set forward again in our Journey on the 29th, and on the 31st of *Jan.* at night, arrived safely in a Village, call'd *Alexesbe* on the River *Janse*, not above five miles from the City of *Musco*.

Here the Ambassador received Orders to stay till the next Morning, when *Czar Peter Alexiewits* came to this place to confer with him in private. After they had spent some hours together, the Czar took the Ambassador along with him to *Ischmeiloff*, and from thence to *Brebolensko*; and we arrived the same day, being the 1st of *February*, safely in the City of *Musco*, where we repos'd our selves after our Journey to *China*, in which we had spent 3 years, wanting 6 weeks.

F I N I S.

Some Curious
OBSERVATIONS
CONCERNING THE
PRODUCTS
OF
RUSSIA,
Which may serve as
A Supplement
To the Preceding
Treatise.

Written Originally in **L A T I N** *by*
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Some Curious

OBSERVATIONS

Concerning the PRODUCTS
O F

Russia, &c.

CHAP. I.

Of their Minerals.

They have three sorts of Salts in *Russia*; the first is boil'd out of Springs, of which the best is made at *Permia* in *Siberia*. The second is, their Stone-Salt, which is found in great quantity in the Province of *Uffa*; The third is brought to perfection by the heat of the Sun in the Salt-Pits, near *Astrachan*, and in *Siberia*. There is also great

122 *Curious Observations concerning*

great store of the best Salt-petre to be found, as also good Brimstone, betwixt *Siberia* and the River *Wolga*, not far from the Kingdom of *Casan* : but the exportation of it is prohibited.

There are also some Iron-Mines in *Russia*, and near *Olonitz*, on the confines of *Sweden*.

Near *Archangel* there is *sluida* Talck dug, which the *English* call *Muscovy* Glass.

In the the Province of *Uffa*, are found very fine Chrystals.

On the frontiers of *Siberia*, near the River *Jenessay*, there is a Mine which produces an Oar, resembling in colour and weight a golden Oar, but it is so-volatile as to flie away in the Smoak, as soon as it is tryed by the Fire. Perhaps this Oar is much of the same nature in comparison to Gold, what a certain Oar in *Germany*, call'd *Bismuth*, is in respect to Silver, it being of the same colour and weight, and is found in the *Saxon* Silver Mines.

The *Russians* are destitute of Silver Mines, but they often dig some of the Metal out of the old Graves.

The *Mammotouoy*, which is dug out of the Earth in *Siberia*, is very well worth taking notice of. The common People in
Russia

Russia relate surprising things concerning its Origin. For they say, they are the Bones of certain Animals, which exceed in bigness any living Creature upon Earth; They make use of it in Physick, as we do of the Unicorn. A friend of mine presented me with a piece of it, which he said was given him by a *Muscovite*, who had brought it himself out of *Siberia*, which appears to me to be nothing else than a true Ivory. The more understanding Sort believe them to be Elephants Teeth, which ever since the time of the Deluge, have lain thus under ground.

The *Adamavoi-Kost* or *Adam's Earth*, is dug out of the Earth near *Archangel*; it is of a black Colour, very near as hard as a Stone, but its figure resembles the Branches of Trees; from whence some conjecture that it is a Wood petrefied. According to this Opinion, it must be supposed that this Wood being perhaps laid at the bottom of some River, whose Current has been choak'd up by the Sands, and covered these Woods.

C H A P. II.

Of their Vegetables.

THE Ground in many Parts of *Muscovy* is more fertile than can well be imagined by Strangers. For it being full of Nitrous particles, these not only promote the Production of all kinds of Fruits, but also quicken their growth, and bring them sooner to perfection, than in some of the more Southern Countries; as it is besides some other Fruits, very observable in their Melons. They have a certain kind of Apples, call'd *Nativa*, which are not only of a fine taste, but also transparent like Glass. They have also several sorts of Berries, which are not to be found in other places. The *Hoslanici* are of a black colour, but of the same taste as our Cherries, having also a Stone in the middle. Their *Punanitzzi* they use to suppress the Fumes after hard drinking. Besides which, they have those call'd, *Brussenici Kluckva* and *Gersmici*; the two last of which are also found in *Livonia*.

But

But among all their Vegetables, that Herb which they call, *Kofa Travic*, deserves to be taken notice of, for it resists Iron, and makes the Sythes if they touch it, spring to pieces. I cannot question the truth of it, because I have heard it confirm'd by very credible Persons, who have seen the effect of it in *Siberia*; tho' otherwise I am not very apt to give credit to the Relations of the vulgar sort in *Muscovy*, among which, that of the Vegetable Lamm is a general received Fable, sufficiently contradicted by Experience.

There is a certain Root in *Russia*, endow'd with an extraordinary Balsamick Quality, which also grows in *Siberia*, they call it *Voltchnoy-Koron*, which signifies as much as *Wolfs-Root*. They attribute to it a specifick Vertue of healing Wounds; But what they related of it, to wit, that it heals a Wound by only chewing of it, I will not affirm for truth.

Arbuzi are called the *Astrachan* Melons; they are not of so delicious a taste as the others; they come nearer to a circular Figure, and their Seeds don't lie in the middle, but straggling thro' the Flesh of the Melon.

The *Astrachan* Pepper is more sharp and biting than other Pepper, is enclosed in a red Husk, the Pepper it self is yellow, and not round but flattish.

C H A P. III.

Of their living Creatures.

AMong the Insects of *Russia*, those call'd *Torceau*, are the most common, they most infest wooden Houses, but are not mischievous. Among the Fish, the *Sierlet* is counted one of the most delicious in *Russia*. It has a long Head and Tail, both of them making up above one half of its whole length, the rest of the Body being but very short. Its Skin is most like that of an Eel; those inclining to a yellowish colour, are accounted the best.

The Fish *Sisan* is very like our Carps. *Semis*, a very broad Fish, with a sharp Nose.

Beluga, or *White-Fish*, is sometimes found in the *Danube*; near *Comorrah*; they call it *Hausam* in *Hungary*, and is carried to *Vienna*, where it is look'd upon

as

as a great Dainty, its Flesh being very luscious. Out of the Spawn of this Fish the best *Caviare* is made in *Muscovy*; tho' they also make it of the Spawn of the Sturgeons and Pikes. The River *Kama*, which exonerates it self into the River *Wolga*, furnishes the City of *Musco* with the best *Beluga*.

I don't remember that ever I met with any Birds in *Muscovy*, but what are sufficiently known among other *European* Nations: Among the four-legg'd Animals, the *Muscovites* esteem those the most, whose Furs protect them against the Injuries of the cold Season.

They have four different kinds of Foxes. The first are the ordinary sort; the second are those who have two dark strokes cross their Backs; and therefore are by the *Germans*, called Cross-Foxes. The third are the white Foxes, whose Skins are the cheapest of all; And fourthly, the black ones, whose Skins are sold at a very dear rate, sometimes, as I have been told, at 80 *Rubels* or *Ducats* a-piece.

The *Rosomacha*, so called by reason of its greediness, affords the most durable Furs.

But

But the chief [vanity of the *Muscovites*, consists in their Sables. There is such a prodigious difference betwixt these Furs, that a pair of them are sold from three *Rubels* to a hundred *Rubels*. The black ones are the most precious; but the white ones are very rare.

In the great Plains betwixt *Muscovy* and the *Crim Tartary*, there are abundance of wild Oxen, and wild Goats; the first they call *Zubri*, the last *Zajaki*.

Vichocolis, a kind of Water-Rats, whose Skins are of a delicious Scent.

C H A P. IV.

Of the Natives of Russia.

THE *Muscovites* are generally of a very strong Constitution, both very tall and bulky. They are also very fruitful, which makes the Country very populous, as may be judged by the vast Armies which the *Muscovites* bring into the Field in time of War. I have it from very credible Persons, and such as had considerable Commands in the present *Czar's* Army, that a few years ago the Army which was raised against the *Precopian Tartars*, consisted of above 300000 Men. Above one half of the year being taken up with their Fasts, when the common People feed upon nothing else but Cabbage and Cucumbers, and these raw, only pickl'd. This is an evident sign of their natural vigour, tho' it must also be allow'd, that they promote the digestion by the Brandy and Leeks, which they use in great quantity, and questionless, correct the viscous Humours

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arising in the Stomach by such indigestible Nourishments. They know of no Epidemical Distempers in *Russia*, unless you would give the Scurvy, (the general Plague of all the Northern Countries) that Name. The *Russians* call it *Tsinga*.

Among the rest we ought not to pass by in silence here their strange manner of Travelling betwixt *Siberia* and *China*. For they make use of Sleds with Sails, which carry them over the Snow when the Wind proves favourable; But if it proves contrary, they have Dogs ready at hand, who supply the defect of the Sails, which are laid by at that time. I have heard it affirm'd for truth, that twelve of these Dogs will draw as much as a good Horse.

The Commodities exported from *Russia* are: Rhubarb, but much inferior in goodness to that which is brought from *China* and *Turkey*. Ambergreece, Honey, Wax, Tar, Course Linen, Caviare *Russia* Leather and Hemp. The City of *Ferefta* is famous for the dressing of *Russia* Leather, which as well as the Caviare, is for the most part transported into *Italy*, The *English* and *Dutch* consume abundance of *Russia* Hemp, out of which they

they make their Cables for their Ships. Sometimes the *Dutch* are also permitted to export some Corn, of which they make great profit. The Cities of *Archangel* and *Narva*, are the two chiefest Places of Commerce betwixt the *Russians*, *English* and *Dutch*. The first is most frequented by the *Dutch*, the last by the *English*. The *Armenian* Merchants have a free Trade at *Narva*, for the conveniency of transporting such Commodities as they buy in *Holland*, by the way of *Narva*, into *Muscovy*, and from thence by the River *Wolga* and the *Caspian Sea*, into *Persia*. But no body is permitted to return into *Persia* by way of *Muscovy*, unless he be come the same way before; it being otherwise much easier to return that way into *Persia*, than to come from thence, as being against the current of the River *Wolga*.

Formerly the *Banjans* (who are *Indian* Merchants) used to traffick in the Capital City of *Musco*. But of late they are forbidden to come any further than *Archangel*, where they drive a very considerable Trade.

There is also at present a constant Trade betwixt *Muscovy* and *China*; from whence the *Muscovites* bring Silks, *Thee*, and among other things a certain mixture, almost like Chalk, but of a yellowish colour, of an Aromatick Scent, which is look'd upon as a Sovereign Remedy against many Distempers. The *Buchartzi*, who, if I mistake not, are Mahometans, inhabiting near *Samarkand*, come frequently to *Tobolsko*, the Capital City of *Siberia*, with all sorts of *Indian* Commodities, for which Reason perhaps it is, that, as I have been informed, the *Arabian* Tongue is taught in some places of *Siberia*.

The *Calmuck Tartars* bring every year after Harvest-time, a great many thousands of Horses to Sale to the City of *Musco*.

They Trade also in Slaves, and sometimes sell their own Children to the *Russians*. I met once a young Boy of that Country who understood the *Russian* Tongue, whom out of Curiosity I asked several Questions, and among the rest, how they called God in his Native Tongue; he answered, *Bogunasniet*, *We have no God*. But it is nevertheless certain,

tain, that they have a certain Religion, such a one as it is; their High Priest being called *Kutasta*, who as well as the *Kutasta* of the *Mongul Tartars*, is subordinate to the *Dalac-Lama*, who being the *Pagan Pope* in those Parts, keeps his Residence at a place called *Baontola*, not far from the Confines of *China*.

I have been credibly informed, that the *Chinese Lama's* or Priests, do also acknowledge this *Dalac-Lama* for their Head. They are perswaded that this *Dalac-Lama* is immortal, which Opinion they maintain among the common People without much difficulty; forasmuch as he scarce ever appears, but to his Priests, who are all Partners in the Fraud.

I heard once a certain *Muscovian* Lord, who had been sent as Ambassador from *Musco* to *China*, say, that it was offered him as a particular Favour, to appear before the *Dalac-Lama*, provided he would prostrate himself before him; but, that he gave them many thanks for the Honour they intended to do him, without accepting their Offer.

134. *Curious Observations concerning, &c.*

I conclude with this hearty wish, that the door of Mercy may be opened to these blind Wretches, that they may be brought out of darkness to partake of the light of the true Religion.

F I N I S.
